

Tar Heel HOMEMAKERS E-news

February 2024

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Notes From Your President . . .

2023-24 Leadership Team

President	Wanda Denning, Wake County
President-elect	Dorothy Wagstaff, Person County
Past President	Cathy Holmes, Rutherford County
Vice Presidents	
North Central	Jeanne Gilbreath, Davie County Colleen Church, Liaison Agent
Northeast	Marita Powell, Currituck County Olivia Patchel, Liaison Agent
South Central	Patricia McKoy, Harnett County Shannon Adcock, Liaison Agent
Southeast	Linda Rivenbark, Bladen County Jessie Jones, Liaison Agent
West	Kelly Dale, Rutherford County Sherri Leford, Liaison Agent
Appointed Parliamentarian	Wanda Denning, Wake County
Appointed Treasurer	Dana Croston, Gaston County
Cultural Arts Co-chairs	Kelly Dale & Kay Dalton Rutherford County

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Happy New Year! 2024 promises to be a banner, but exciting year for ECA! We will vote on new policies at State Conference in July! The Strategic Plan is complete and being tweaked. It will be shared with the membership before the District Days so that Districts may further tweak the plan. Our goal is to position ECA for another 100 years! We need to “rethink” what and how we do!

Speaking of State Conference . . . I hope by now that you are aware that NCECA is hosting the 2024 NVON Conference in July. It was decided that we would combine our State Conference with the NVON Conference so we didn’t have to plan two big events in the same year!

State Conference will be Monday, July 15. We will have Cultural Arts, the Business meeting and our Awards Banquet. The NVON Conference will be July 16-18. Tuesday will be craft workshops and tours. Tuesday night we will kick off the Conference with NC Night . . . with the Band of Oz! Wednesday and Thursday will be for NVON Business Meetings and educational workshops. The Conference will conclude with a banquet Thursday night!

Please join us in Asheville at the Doubletree Hilton – Biltmore in July for both. Registration information will be shared real soon!

We will need lots of help from our counties with door prizes, favors, table decorations, hostesses, etc. Ask how you can help!

Wanda Denning

go.ncsu.edu/nceca

Dates to Remember

February 1	eNews Deadline
February 7	Educational Scholarships due to County NCECA Virtual Leadership Team meeting
March 1	Scholarships due to Cathy Holmes
March 6	NCECA Virtual Leadership Team meeting
April 1	eNews Deadline
April 4	Northeast District Day

Across the State

Northeast

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare,
Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde,
Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans,
Pitt, Tyrrell, Warren, Washington

Wake County



Wake County ECA celebrated the holiday season with a brunch and gift exchange at Wanda Denning's home on December 14th.



At the January County Council, the guest speaker was Caitlin Gooch, founder of Saddle Up and Read. The mission of Saddle Up and Read is to encourage youth to achieve literary excellence through equine



February 19

Southeast

Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Duplin,
Greene, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow,
Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Wayne, Wilson

Duplin County



In December, ECA decorated the lobby of the Duplin County Cooperative Extension lobby, which is shared by Duplin County Soil and Water /NCRS and Farm Services Agency. We put up Christmas wreaths and a Christmas tree at the entrance of the building. The tree was decorated by ornaments made by our ECA members.

Last month our club had their annual Christmas Dinner Celebration. It was different this year, it was held in the Ed Emory Auditorium.

One group provided delicious dishes, desserts and drinks. We played games 1) the mystery present game and 2) getting the most marshmallows in a bowl, easy, right? What about blindfolded!?

It was a delightful celebration full of eating, rejoicing and fellowship. Each member went home with a red or white poinsettia.



In December, Happy Birthday went out to Ms. Ruby Brinson. Our oldest club member, she has been a member for 45 years. During this time, Ms. Brinson has served on many committees and has held many positions with the state and district positions. She now is the present local and district treasurer.

Several of our ECA members participate in the Duplin Sparklers Line Dance group. In December, Duplin County Senior Services held their annual Christmas Event, the program focus was on protecting yourself from Scams and Fraud. Health Screenings were made available from the Health Department. After lunch the Duplin Sparklers Line Dancing Group provided the special entertainment.



Craven County

In the heart of Craven County, the ECA, formerly known as the Extension Homemakers Association stands as a beacon of community service and volunteerism. Affiliated closely with N.C. Cooperative Extension, ECA not only fosters personal growth and development but also actively seeks to enhance the quality of life for the local community. At the forefront of this noble mission is the **Craven County ECA Club**, fittingly named **Krafter's Klatch**, a dynamic force that has been making a positive impact for over 46 years. Craven County had other clubs, such as the **Vanceboro Club**, when the clubs had lower membership they joined the **Krafter's Klatch** club.

As part of the NCECA, their mission echoes loudly in the efforts of **Krafter's Klatch**: to strengthen families and communities through leadership development, volunteer work, and educational support. Since its inception, **Krafter's Klatch** has been a cornerstone in uplifting Craven County, contributing significantly to programming for Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development, and the overall operations of the Craven County Extension Office.

The legacy of **Krafter's Klatch** is woven into the fabric of Craven County through countless of volunteer services and activities. From the charming preschool Halloween walk downtown to the innovative creation of fidget quilts and flannel baby blankets, the club has left an indelible mark on the community. Fundraising initiatives like the spaghetti dinner and the sale of Pepsi cupcakes in front of the Pepsi Store not only showcased their dedication but also helped sustain their impactful projects.

The members of **Krafter's Klatch** embraced a spirit of generosity, making 500 ornaments for Breakfast with Santa and delivering plastic canvas ribbon angels to nursing homes. The club helped high schoolers with grants for their first year of college. Their commitment extended beyond the county borders, with participation in conferences such as the ECA State Conference and the National Volunteer Outreach Network Conference, reflecting their eagerness to learn and grow as a group.

The club also found joy in sharing knowledge and skills, teaching workshops on topics ranging from crafting seashell pillow wreaths to constructing bluebird houses and even mastering the art of making mozzarella. Their impact on the local foster community was palpable through the preparation of dinners for Department of Social Services foster families, a testament to their commitment to creating a positive environment for those in need.



As a final chapter in the illustrious story of **Krafter's Klatch**, the club convened for the last time on January 17th 2024. In a heartfelt ceremony, Stephanie Stevenson, Craven County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, presented Judy Blythe, the ECA **Krafter's Klatch** President, with an Award of Appreciation. Judy Blythe has dedicated over 45 years of selfless service to **Craven County, ECA**, and Family and Consumer Sciences. Her unwavering dedication has not only contributed to the growth of these organizations but has also united women in a common purpose for the betterment of the county.

The tale of **Craven County ECA** is not just one of volunteerism; it is a story of resilience, compassion, and unity. Their legacy will continue to inspire future generations to come together, making a difference in the lives of those they serve, embodying the true spirit of community and selfless giving.



March 17

Wayne County



ECA Tea Party! To make a difference in the community, volunteer training and annual work plans are essential. These strategies can help foster participation and connect volunteers with our shared mission. During the January meeting, **Wayne County ECA** members received their ECA books and participated in an informative ECA Marketing 101 workshop. The event was topped off with a delightful selection of refreshments and tea



ECA is committed to addressing the rising issue of food insecurity in Wayne County, where

21,900 individuals (17.6%) and 6,980 children under 18 (23.5%) are affected. As part of their efforts to assist those in need, the ECA organizes a food drive during their Annual Christmas Bazaar each year. This year's drive was highly successful, with over 500 pounds of non-perishable food collected. ECA members generously donated an additional 200 pounds of food to create 30 baskets for families in Dudley who require assistance.

With the help of 4-H volunteers, the baskets were distributed to the families in need. As part of the Steps to Health Program from NC State University, each family also received two ChopChop magazines.



Volunteering is an excellent way to increase social interaction and establish a support system based on shared interests. One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to participate in a shared activity.



The **Wayne County ECA** provided funds for the creation of 66 shoeboxes as part of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Project. This initiative serves as an excellent opportunity to socialize while packing the boxes.



According to a study published in the Journal of Happiness Studies, individuals who volunteer are happier than those who do not. Volunteering not only boosts our happiness, but it can also improve our mental health in the long term.

Thanks to the **Wayne County ECA** and their supporters, 39 students from the Wayne County Public Schools Newcomer Program received Christmas gifts. This project was a success thanks to the many Cooperative Extension volunteers and staff who helped. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the Extension volunteers for their tireless dedication to Wayne County.



March 31

North Central

Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Caswell, Chatham,
Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Granville,
Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham,
Stokes, Surry, Vance, Wilkes, Yadkin

Surry County

Surry County ECA members are making a difference in our community. Currently there are three community clubs **Beulah, Pilot Mountain Achievers, and Siloam**. Recent months have found members learning about community resources and doing community service projects.



The **Beulah Club** is led by president Goldie Sparger, Gail Shelton, vice president, Ivylyn Martin, secretary and Alberta Anderson, Treasurer. During the November meeting, members put together over 20 fruit baskets to take to shut – ins in the community. The **Beulah ECA Club** has enjoyed learning more about the community the past several months as various speakers shared information about their organizations. Programs included The Shepherd's House - homeless shelter. The Children's Center of Northwest North Carolina and Surry Medical



Ministries.



Members donated paper products, cleaning supplies and pantry staples at their monthly meetings to support each of these organizations. Being aware of resources and the mission of each of these community resources expands the knowledge of members and may provide an opportunity to help others who could benefit from the services these organizations provide. The **Beulah ECA club** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Beulah Ruritan Club.



The **Pilot Mountain Achievers** participated in a nutrition class presented by 2nd Harvest Food Bank in November. Members learned smart shopping tips and more about volunteer opportunities with Second Harvest, made yummy yogurt parfaits and made a donation to Second Harvest. In December the club organized and sponsored a community musical program at the Charles Stone Public Library in Pilot Mountain. The president of this club is Marilyn Geiger. Treasurer is Sara Bryant. This group meets in the daytime on day and time convenient for the members each month.



The **Siloam Club** celebrated American Education Week in November by assembling 60 Thank You bags for the teachers and staff at Copeland Elementary School. The **Siloam Club** is led by president Peggy Folk and Agnes Carlyle. The **Siloam Club** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at lunchtime at Siloam Baptist Church.



Randolph County

Randolph ECA held its 2023 Achievement Luncheon on December 5th. The theme of the day was "Every Picture Tells a Story." Highlights of the program included special music by member Chad Spencer and recognition of 1500+ community service hours. Kim Lemons, ECA Interim President, presented a symbolic check for the service hours to Randolph County Commissioners Hope Haywood and Maxton McDowell.



A donation check was presented to Nikki Hawks from Lydia's Place to help support the mission of providing transitional shelter to those struggling with homelessness.

Three members were recognized for their many years of service. Doris Davis and Margie Stidham have both contributed 40 years of service. Hazel Caviness was recognized for 55 years of service. Each club prepared specific

parts of the meal. The entire extension staff was also invited to join the luncheon.



Induction of new officers was led by extension agent Jennifer Holmes. The new leadership team is... President- Bonita Terry, Secretaries- Janet Gartner & Linda Gerringer, Treasurer - Janet Paccione, Advisor- Kim Lemons.

Person county

The **Person County ECA** members recently adopted 9 residents from the Canterbury House "Adopt a Resident" program. ECA members bought and wrapped gifts for the residents according to their individual wish lists. We were happy to provide a little joy and Christmas cheer to others.



Person County ECA had a fun time hosting a joint workshop with the Person County Senior Center where we made Santa Pants flower pots. Also, thanks to our horticulture agent, Johnny Coley, who came and talked to our participants about Holiday Plant Care.



South Central

Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cumberland,
Gaston, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg,
Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly,
Union

Harnett County

Homelessness, Elderly Care Facilities, and Social Interaction are concerns of the **Progressive ECA Club**. Homelessness looks different when you discover it affects people you know personally. Through an organization that works with the homeless population in Harnett County, **Progressive ECA Club** members, Connie Slater and Paulette Chance, have come to know first-hand the challenges that the homeless face. Determined to make a difference and to assist with at least one of their needs, Connie recognized that she could provide them a hot meal. With the assistance of Paulette they prepared 65 home-cooked fried chicken dinners. Since those first meals, the two of them have been preparing meals for the homeless the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. To protect the privacy and the stigma that is often associated with being homeless, these two ladies have chosen to independently work

Harnett County, continued

together to prepare meals. Sometimes a local church assists them with food supplies. Keeping in mind that the people they serve do not have the means to prepare meals, their goal is to make sure that a select group of homeless people in Harnett County receive food.



To celebrate the Christmas holiday, **Progressive ECA Club** provided Christmas gift bags for 59 residents of Pinecrest Gardens, a senior living community. The bags included night gowns for the women and tee shirts for the men, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, socks, lip balm, nail files, and word puzzle books. It was a joyous experience to deliver and interact with the residents. The patients are still in recovery from Covid 19; you can tell that they have missed personal connections with people. This visit was priceless and memorable.

The Progressive ECA ended 2023 with two special social events just for ECA members. Our County Council hosted a covered dish Christmas party that gave members the opportunity to express their feelings about family and life. Rose Cotton read a touching and heart-warming children's book that made us think of our past and current love ones. For some, the book touched on grief and happiness in ways that were positive. The second event was a **Progressive Club** outing to Heath's Steak House. The club chose to patronize a great restaurant that is located right here in our own county... in other words, spend your money in the county that benefits "YOU" more. The members had an awesome fun-filled time together.



West

Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Cherokee Reservation, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey

Cleveland County



Cleveland County ECA members donated 6 tote bags filled with paper goods, personal and household items, snacks, etc. and 4 - \$25.00 grocery store gift cards to Care Solutions for their Tote Bags for Seniors Project. We understand that for some of their clients, it is the only gift they will receive for Christmas.

ECA participated in the Foothills Farmers Market Holiday Market on December 2, 2023. The FFM POP Club activity included giving each child a handmade Gingerbread Salt Dough Ornament made by ECA President Pat Farley and a POP Token from the Market. The children were able to use their \$2 POP token to go shopping and purchase a favorite fruit or vegetable at the market.

ECA volunteers (l to r): Pat Farley, Lorinda Richard, Judy Canipe



Cleveland County, continued



Belwood ECA held their Annual Christmas Luncheon at St. Peter's Methodist Church on December 19th. Our guests included NC Cooperative Extension Cleveland County Family & Consumer Sciences and ECA Liaison Agent Nancy Abasiekong, Cooperative Extension Administrative Assistant Diane Labat, ECA Member-at-Large Karen Hubbard, and Foothills Farmers Market Manager Mary Cornwell.



The ECA Achievement Luncheon on January 19, 2024, featured **Cleveland County ECA** members and their 2023 programs and projects as well as many of our Community Partners. Members welcomed Cleveland County Extension staff and special guests: all 5 of the County Commissioners, Assistant County Manager Kerri Melton, County Sheriff, Cathy Holmes NCECA Past President, sister members from Rutherford County ECA, community partners, family and friends. In the photo above: President Pat Farley presents the County Commissioners with a Certificate for our 2023 volunteer hours - 7,644. This gave a value to the county of \$243,079 from Cleveland County ECA members.

Members appreciated the message Cathy Holmes shared from NCECA President Wanda Denning, who sent greetings from the NCECA Leadership Team. Wanda commended the Cleveland members on their achievements and encouraged us to continue our dedication and work with NC State Extension to make ECA a viable organization throughout the state.

Pictured at right: Rutherford County ECA members (l to r): Ruby Ham, Cathy Holmes, Arnita Camp Harrison, and Karen Laughter.



Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch planned by the Achievement Committee. Lunch included an assortment of homemade soups, baked potato bar, tossed salad, cornbread, crackers, rolls, tea, and two desserts from our **Cleveland County ECA Centennial Cookbook**.

Our Featured Partner was the Ronald McDonald House of Greater Charlotte. Kayla Roberts, front row – 2nd from the left) a staff member with the RMHC, talked about the Million Tab Challenge Project and how the tabs are used to support the work and expenses of the RMH. Kayla was excited to receive the 355 pounds of tabs on display, that had been collected in 2023. She delivered them to the RMHC for us.



Cathy Holmes presented Longevity of Service Awards – 2022: Les Dixon – 25 Years;

2023: Joan Parrish – 25 Years and Pat Farley – 35 Years





At left, Cathy Holmes presented the Outstanding Volunteer Awards – 2022: Judy Hamrick Canipe and 2023:

Mary Lee Jones **Cleveland County ECA** members earned the NCECA Award of Excellence - Gold Seal for both 2022 and 2023 for their hours of volunteer service



Cleveland County ECA members are already busy learning, volunteering, and having fun as they implement their 2024 Plan-of-Work.



NC STATE EXTENSION

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