

**U of A**  
 DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
 RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
 University of Arkansas System



**EXTENSION  
 HOMEMAKERS  
 COUNCIL**

**A COOPERATIVE  
 EXTENSION SERVICE  
 PROGRAM**

**Karen Bell Fox**  
 Cleveland County  
 AEHC President

**Cheryl Stewart**  
 Crawford County  
 AEHC President Elect

**Debbie Thompson**  
 Polk County  
 AEHC Vice President

**Ruth Hall**  
 Yell County  
 AEHC Secretary

**Carolyn Morris**  
 Yell County  
 AEHC Treasurer

**Johnette Johnson**  
 Montgomery County  
 AEHC Past President

**Bernadette Friegy**  
 Sharp County  
 Parliamentarian

**Marilyn Spence**  
 Crawford County  
 Membership

**U of A AEHC Advisor**  
**Dr. Laura Hendrix**

**Agent Advisor**  
**Diane Clement, Cleveland C.**

# AEHC Newsletter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **New District Directors will be elected at State Meeting this year. Nomination forms and nominee consent form must be in by May 15. These forms can be found on the Extension Homemakers Website or call Melody Curtis (501-671-2012) or call your District Director. If you have ever considered being on the State Board, now is your chance to help your EHC. Get your nomination forms in now.**
- **Dr. Lynn Russell and Betty F. Oliver Memorial Scholarship applications are due March 1. Mini grant application is due March 1st. These go to Melody at the Little Rock Office. Please inform anyone you know who might be interested.**
- **Runners, tote bags, and all other craft items donated to help with our NVON Meeting next July will be on sale at the Ferndale Conference & at State Meeting. All items will be sold. Tickets for the Quilt Drawing will still be sold at the Ferndale Conference and State Meeting. The drawing will be at the NVON Meeting.**
- **We hope some of you will be able to attend the NVON meeting in Springdale in July. You will be able to see first hand how our National Conference is conducted and meet the officers. You won't regret it. We will need some helpers at the meeting and you might want to volunteer. For information on registrations, check periodically on the website or contact the Little Rock office (Melody Curtis, Rachael Price) or contact Mary Fisher, Chairman at [mfisher@arkwest.com](mailto:mfisher@arkwest.com)**
- **To order the "Ask Me About EHC" Buttons, call Marilyn Spence at 479-806-2622 or email [marilynspence1847@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynspence1847@yahoo.com). Buttons are \$1.25 each. They will be for sale again at the Ferndale Conference in March..**
- **Orders need to be in right away if you want to order shirts to pick up at the Education Workshop at Ferndale in March. Contact Kaye Greene and she can email you a price list with pictures of the shirts, red or black. She can get Polo, V-neck & Crew, short or long sleeves. The crew shirt is uni-sex so it runs larger. The Polo runs a bit small. Contact: [kaye-green@yahoo.com](mailto:kaye-green@yahoo.com) or call or text to Kaye at 870-692-5695.**

***Upcoming  
Events  
2019***

Check website periodically for information regarding registrations for all meetings.

**SPRING FERNDALE CONFERENCE**

FERNDALE 4-H CENTER

Ferndale, Arkansas

MARCH 6, 2019

**Registration Deadline Feb. 22**

**AEHC STATE MEETING**

CONVENTION CENTER.

HOT SPRINGS, AR

JUNE 4,5,6, 2019

**2019 NVON CONFERENCE**

HOLIDAY INN

SPRINGDALE, AR

JULY 22-25, 2019

**2019 DISTRICT MEETINGS**

**OZARK— Oct. 22**

**DELTA—Oct. 24**

**OUACHITA—Oct. 29**

**SPRING CONFERENCE, FERNDALE, 4-H CENTER**

**MARCH 6, 2019**

We hope everyone is planning to be at the Spring Conference in Ferndale. Below is a little information to get you started and we will have more in the Newsletter next month. Plans are being made for a great time at the conference.

**Registration Fee—\$15.00 Lunch on March 6th—\$10.00**

**Registration fees are due February 22nd (\$10.00 late fee)**

If you would like to come Tuesday night to spend the night and start the fun early, prices for lodging for each person are:

**Each person, 1 person in a room - \$66.25**

**Each person, 2 people in a room—\$50.00**

**Each person, 3 people in a room—\$43.25**

We will talk some more about registration online but we need everyone's money in before the deadline.

**NVON CONFERENCE, SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS**

**July 22-25, 2019**

If you are interested in attending the NVON Conference in Springdale in July here are a few notes to get you started. Registration forms are on the Extension Homemakers website now. All meals are included in the registration cost. You will need to make hotel reservations as soon as you can, our room block will last until June 23rd. Rooms will all be \$135.36 total cost per night (\$119.00 + tax per night for up to 4 people in the room). You will need to pick out the tours you want and the craft classes as soon as you can as numbers will be limited.

**ARKANSAS AEHC STATE MEETING, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS**

**JUNE 4, 5, 6, 2019**

We are working to get the registration forms for State Meeting on the website. We will let you know when they will be available as soon as we know. Registration will be done the same way as last year. We hope to see everyone in Hot Springs.

Newsletter Editor

Johnette Johnson

johnettej@msn.com

Cell 501-454-9190

**Melody Curtis, AEHC Administrative Specialist**  
**Featured AEHC Person for January**

Melody has been with the Cooperative Extension Office in Little Rock as AEHC Administrative Specialist for 9 years. Melody says that at the time that she was interviewed and hired for this position by Betty Oliver that she had no idea she had found her dream job.

After a career that spanned over 50 years with the last 26 in communications and public relations at St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock, she was looking for a part-time, non-stressful job to supplement her retirement income and help keep her computer skills current. Melody says that working with Betty was the experience of a lifetime. She also said, "I was so blessed and I learned so much from Betty. I still miss her every day. Also, getting to know and working with the wonderful EH ladies throughout the state is a dream job. I feel that I have made many life-long friends. I particularly like recording and reading your project books. They all inspire me and make me so proud to be a part of this great volunteer organization. Being a people-person, I enjoy talking and emailing everyone; answering questions, solving problems, when I can, or finding someone who can help when I can't," Melody explained.



Melody was born in Little Rock but moved away. She and her husband, Jim, have been living back in Little Rock since 1970. Her husband is a retired medical supply salesman and they have three adult children; Alan, James and Stacy and eight grandchildren. So far there are eleven great-grandchildren but feel there will be more in the future.

The AEHC officers and committee members depend on Melody for her help every day and are forever grateful for all she did during the transition period after Betty's death. You may reach Melody at [mcurtis@uaex.edu](mailto:mcurtis@uaex.edu), or 501-671-2012, or send mail to her attention at Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 S. University Ave. Little Rock, AR 72204.

**Newton County Christmas Project**

The Newton County EHC members completed their project "**Newton County Christmas Child**" on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. This year the EHC Council and members supplied gifts to more than 50 families and 95 children in Newton County. Newton County members help shop for the gifts and get together to fill a box for each child. Picture show Christmas Party which is the kick-off for the project each year. They work with the county schools to decide children's names for their list. The group worked with all four county schools including Deer, Jasper, Mt.



Judea and Western Grove. The group also assisted young families who did not have children in the school system. The goal of this project is to help families in need provide for their children at Christmas. The members give over 100 volunteer hours for this project each year.

Our EHC group is very grateful to all the members of the community that helped to make this activity such a success and for the ability to bring a smile to the face of a child this Christmas. We have many individuals and organizations in our county who contribute to this project and we want to thank them all for helping to make this very worthwhile project possible.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Happy **NEW** Year AEHC!!

Can you believe it is 2019? Our marvelous members ushered out 2018 with great fanfare. Rounds of Holiday Food programs, and Council Christmas parties. The list of community and state projects runs on, it seems like, forever. I believe when everything is tallied, we will find we are surpassing recent years with our community outreach programs.



Karen Bell Fox

I would like to share with you some of the **NEW** AEHC plans for 2019:

**NEW** we will be featuring council/club projects on our Facebook and our Blog, with photos. Your county may be featured so keep a watch out for these new events.

**NEW** for AEHC is the monthly newsletter sent *ONLY* to County Council Presidents and FCS agents. Great information to be shared with *ALL* EHC members. So please remember to share.

**NEW** strategic planning focus for the future of AEHC. Strategic planning is an ongoing project for our executive officers to help guide AEHC into the upcoming years to stay a viable organization.

**NEW** members and new clubs are being formed with lots of new ideas and opportunities for education, community service and leadership.

**NEW** District Directors will be elected in June at the AEHC State Convention. New Associate Directors will be appointed shortly after the election.

**NEW** classes, ideas and scheduling planned for the state meeting June 4-6, Hot Springs. Stay tuned for details.

**NEW** focus on our educational programs. More exciting and fun-filled educational classes just around the corner. Mark your calendars now to attend the workshop at the 4-H Center in Ferndale on March 6<sup>th</sup> and be involved in the decision making for the educational direction we are going toward.

**NEW** In with many new ideas but not necessarily out with all the old ideas either.

As your President I urge you to communicate and participate more in 2019.

Till next time

***Karen***

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