



# North Carolina Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

The Professional Association for North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
Family & Consumer Sciences Educators

## Annual Meeting Update: January 23, 2015

The following summary is based on input from 39 responses from a survey of FCS agents completed in September 2014 and the fall meeting of NC District with 17 members in attendance.

Venue: Marriot, Durham Convention Center

Date: August 5-7

Theme: Back To the Future: All Roads Lead to FCS

Vision: Theme serves as our vision for the 2015 state meeting

**Goal/Mission Statement was developed at the fall meeting.**

The 2015 NCEAFCS State Meeting will provide opportunities for FCS professionals to understand the cycles of change, and feel valued and motivated within the context of the new strategic plan for NC Cooperative Extension. Participants will leave the meeting with a sense of renewal and connection to other FCS professionals, their profession and Extension. Participants will have updated skills for enhancing and maximizing FCS program delivery and career building.

### **Key Challenges:**

*How do we, as FCS professionals, convey the importance and value of our profession within our "extension family" and communities?*

*How can FCS professionals move forward within the context of our current directive (Foods) and reduction in force?*

### **Other Considerations:**

What is the future for FCS? Agents need clearer vision of strategic plan directive for FCS professionals.

There are more questions and answers. FCS professionals can view this as an opportunity to understand and move through the cycle of change, and become positively and effectively engaged in the process for defining our role and value to the Extension mission.

How can FCS professionals "reinvent ourselves" while maintaining the integrity of our profession? How can FCS professionals integrate the other disciplines of Family and Consumer Sciences into the core program areas; Foods, Agriculture and Youth (particularly Foods)?

How can FCS professionals maximize resources and “work smarter not harder while covering two counties.

Master Volunteer Educators targeting specific program areas. Agents serve as trainers/managers of system of well-trained volunteers.

Advocacy: Gaining support for sustaining a local presence.

**Immediate Concerns:**

Summarized from recent informal discussions with several agents within the NC District as well as other districts

- **Costs:** Attendance for a state meeting are difficult to project given the environment of uncertainty. Although we are projecting 45 members to attend the meeting, we are not sure this is realistic. Current membership in the organization is 70. 35 of the 39 respondents to the survey indicated they would attend however 2 of those have recently resigned. Low numbers coupled with no response thus far from potential sponsors increases our risk of not being able to make the registration affordable and break even on the costs of holding the meeting at the current venue.
- **Program:** Morale is extremely low. Considering what programs to offer that would motivate members to attend is difficult without a clearer vision of our role as FCS agents.
- **Morale.** Some agents would like to forego the meeting this year and others are ambivalent, wary of the time and effort involved in planning without knowing how many agents will actually attend or be here to help.

*Let's Consider: In lieu of state meeting, State Program Leaders offer in-service training that provides us with a clearer vision/direction with practical applications for our changing role in Extension and include opportunities for us to have a friendship event, awards ceremony and business session.*

**Submitted by:  
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