

## NOTE:

Although in Texas agent titles have been changed from Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) to Family and Community Health (FCH) the name of the associations has remained "FCS." Family and Consumer Sciences describes a broad field of study focused on the science and the art of living and working well in our complex world. This discipline includes more than just family and community health, is practiced beyond Extension, and is present in other states (both within and outside of Extension.)

The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) educates and recognizes Extension professionals who impact the quality of life for individuals, families and communities through work in Extension. The Texas Extension Association is an affiliate of NEAFCS, and district associations are integral components of TEAFCS. TEAFCS serves as a professional association for a variety of titles within the FCS/FCH discipline in Texas, through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program, as well as specialized programs of either and both.

# PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FOR TEAFCS/NEAFCS

(DRAFTED AUGUST 2021)



## NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP - NEAFCS



- **The highest level of membership;** highly encouraged for all Membership is open to degreed professionals working in the Extension Family and Consumer Sciences field. Membership options for students, members in transition (i.e. between jobs), and para-professionals are also available.
- **National Dues (currently \$100) are paid annually to maintain membership in the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.**
- **Dues must be paid by December 31 of each year to be eligible to apply for the NEAFCS awards.** Some awards have additional tenure requirements. Please note: District treasurers set an earlier due date to meet the state deadline. The state treasurer sets an earlier due date to meet the national due date. Please make sure you work through your district treasurer and meet the deadline set for your district. Do not send your dues directly to the state treasurer or the national office.
- *According to current by-laws, 5 years of continuous NEAFCS membership allows a member to apply for a life membership upon retirement and the payment of a lifetime membership fee (currently \$300).*
- Each state is given a specific number of voting delegates at the national business meeting based on the number of paid national members.
- National membership provides access to a variety of professional development opportunities such as webinars and networking opportunities, and of course, awards and recognition.

## STATE MEMBERSHIP - TEAFCS



- **The Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences is an affiliate of NEAFCS.** This means TEAFCS exists as a subsidiary of NEAFCS. State membership is generally simultaneous with national membership.
- **Membership is open to FCS/FCH related professionals in Texas,** this includes professionals in specialized programs and positions (such as special programs like BLT, HST, and EFNEP; specialists; administrators, etc.)
- **Membership dues (currently \$50) give members state membership rights.**
- *Ideally members pay a total of combined state and national dues (currently \$150) to be both a state and national member.*
- However, *TEAFCS has the option to offer "state-only" membership.* A potential member may become a "state-only" member by paying only the state portion of dues. However, this forfeits all benefits of national membership including the qualification to apply for the NEAFCS award categories.
- **State only members** can apply for the TEAFCS award categories, but not the NEAFCS award categories (except as a member of a team, led by an NEAFCS member).
- According to the TEAFCS by-laws, to serve in any leadership capacity (District Director, Associate Director, State Committee Chair, or State Officer) of TEAFCS, an individual must be a paid state member

## DISTRICT MEMBER - D#EAFCS



- **District membership is the "grassroots" level of the NEAFCS and TEAFCS organizations.**
- The option to apply for membership in only the district association is possible (*according to the by-laws of each district association*) by paying a district membership fee (*sometimes called a courtesy fee*). Some districts require a district membership fee be paid in addition to the state and/or national membership fees.
- **District association meetings** often serve a dual purpose as an association business meeting and professional development for all professionals and paraprofessional in any given district. Many supervisors require all FCH/FCS professional within a district to attend the district association meetings.
- **Participants at district meetings who are not paid members of the association are asked not to participate in the association business meetings.**
- Some districts offer district-only awards (that may or may not advance to state or national depending on membership requirements and qualifications at advanced levels).
- **District association by-laws govern participation, membership, and ability to hold district office.** However, to serve as the District Director or Alternate Director, representatives should pay dues and be members of at least the state association.
- **District Directors and Alternate Directors of each district serve on the state TEAFCS board and are expected to attend the spring and winter board meetings, as well as the summer board meetings during the annual conference.**
- In addition to district membership fees, district associations may also charge a fee to cover costs associated with each district meeting.



[HTTPS://WWW.NEAFCS.ORG](https://www.neafcs.org)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NEAFCS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/neafcs)



[HTTPS://TEAFCS.TAMU.EDU](https://teafcs.tamu.edu)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/TEAFCSGRUPP](https://www.facebook.com/groups/teafcsgrupp)

FOR DISTRICT - CONTACT YOUR D# DIRECTOR