

EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY February 2020 Newsletter

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thurs., January 30th | 10:00am - 11:30am

All board members are requested to attend - please contact Pam Myers or Pam Bryson if you are unable to attend. This meeting is open to all members, but only Executive Board members can vote during this time. Also, any member who would like to have an issue discussed at the monthly meeting (February 6th) is encouraged to attend this Executive Board meeting.

2020 DISTRICT ECA SCHOLARSHIP (\$800)

Submission deadline: February 1st

The District ECA scholarship application is now available at the Lucile Tatum Center. Students eligible to apply include: current high school seniors, adults, and currently enrolled college students.

MONTHLY ECA MEETING

Thurs., February 6th | 10:00am

All members and guests are invited to attend this monthly member meeting. The principal at Pleasant Ridge is collecting books so that any student celebrating a birthday (ages 5 to 12) gets to choose a book as a gift. Also, March 2nd is "Reading Across America Day".

To celebrate these two events, ECA will collect books for elementary children and donate them to Pleasant Ridge Elementary School. Please bring a new (or VERY gently used) book to February and March monthly ECA meeting.

AWARD FORMS: ECA LEADER/MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Submission Deadline: February 19th

Applications for ECA 2019 Leader and Member of the Year are included in the newsletter and also available in the lobby of the Lucile Tatum Center. Please nominate a member who deserves these awards. Award applications should be submitted to Pam Bryson.

2020 GASTON ECA SCHOLARSHIP (\$1000)

Submission deadline: April 4th

Gaston County ECA is pleased to be offering at least one scholarship in May. Students eligible to apply include: current high school seniors, adults, and currently enrolled college students. Scholarship applications are available online (gaston.ces.ncsu.edu) and at the Lucile Tatum Center.

ECA CULTURAL ARTS

February 17th - 20th

Join the fun of displaying your talents and gifts! Enter as many items as you can into the cultural arts contest. We want to see what you've been working on this past year.

Creative Writing entries must be submitted by January 31st - see rules below. All other entries can be dropped off on Friday, February 14th (1-4:30pm) or Monday, February 17th (8:30-11:30am or 1:00-4:30pm). Entries will be available for viewing on Tuesday afternoon, February 18th. Take time to vote for your favorite entry for the People's Choice Award!

The rules are simple:

1. Any current Gaston County ECA member is eligible to enter an article in any or all of the contest categories listed below—only one article can be entered in any one category. The article must have been made by an individual member and must have been completed between March 2019 and February 2020.
2. Articles are allowed entry in the Cultural Arts Contest only one time.
3. If your name is on the article, cover it with tape so it is not visible to the judges.
4. Entries must be accompanied by a signed copy of the NCECA Cultural Arts Release Form included in this newsletter or a form can be picked up at the Lucile Tatum Center.
5. ECA is not responsible for lost or damaged articles.

Look at each category below. How many categories can you enter? One item in each!. Review the definition to see which categories you can enter! (Do you sew? Enter in Category 1 and 2 and 9! Do you do hand work? Look at Categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9! Get the idea? And don't forget Category 32 if what you do doesn't fit in any other category.

1. Sewing: Clothing (including smocked items), aprons, doll clothes, costumes, vests
2. Sewing: Home furnishings, draperies, pillow covers, placemats, wall hanging (with sleeve), table runner
3. Needlework: Tatting, lace, cross stitch, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, red work, Swedish embroidery
4. Knitting: any knitted item
5. Crocheting: Any crocheted item
6. Embroidery: Hardanger, candlewicking, crewel
7. Craft Recycling: Using recycled items to create a craft
8. Heritage Skills: Corn shuck dolls, braided or hooked rugs, gourd art, calligraphy, pressed flower art, baskets (reed, rag, pine needle), wood craft
9. Christmas Decorations
10. Jewelry
11. Scrapbooking: Submit only two pages
12. Fine Arts
13. Watercolors
14. Oils
15. Acrylics

16. Miscellaneous: Tole painting, stenciling, etching, painting on wood or glass
17. Quilts: All Sizes
18. Quilts: Appliqued, machine quilted
19. Quilts: Appliqued, hand quilted
20. Quilts: Pieced, machine quilted
21. Quilts: Pieced, hand quilted
22. Quilts: Stamped pattern (cheater's cloth), machine quilted
23. Quilts: Stamped pattern (cheater's cloth), hand quilted
24. Quilts: Machine embroidery, machine quilted
25. Quilts: Machine embroidery, hand quilted
26. Quilts: Wall hanging
27. Quilts: Other techniques-cathedral window, yoyo, crazy quilt, tacked
28. Flower Arrangement: Artificial or dried
29. Wreath: Artificial or dried
30. Photography: Black & White, Color (maybe matted)
31. Dolls: Porcelain
32. Dolls: Fabric
33. Metal Arts: Use any metal for enameling, hammering, embossing, engraving
34. Miscellaneous: Only items that cannot be entered in the above categories are entered here.

Creative Writing:

35. Poetry: Entry cannot exceed three pages
36. Short Story: Entry cannot exceed twenty pages

CREATIVE WRITING – GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Only original work and unpublished writers are eligible
2. Entry must be typed, not handwritten, on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper
3. Entry must be double-spaced with one inch margins on each submitted page.
4. Each page must be numbered with the title included on each page with no identifiable markings (such as name, address, phone number or pictures) on pages or folder.
5. Entry must be placed in a plain manila folder.
6. Place the completed Cultural Arts Release Form (including title, number of pages) in an unsealed envelope.
7. Entries MUST be in the hands of the contest coordinator on the level of competition (county /district/state) THREE (3) weeks prior to the contest.
8. Entries will be judged on • Creativity • Appearance • Spelling and Punctuation • Following guidelines described above
9. A critique of your work will NOT be available.

CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST RELEASE FORM

I, _____ agree to allow my entry in category # _____ to be in the possession of county, district and/or state members responsible for helping with the NCECA Cultural Arts Contest. I agree to pick up my entry or appoint a named person to do so after the county, district or state level of the contest and exhibit. In signing this form I am so stating that this article is entirely my work and that I have packaged my article for safe handling. Any damages occurring due to improper packing are my responsibility. NCECA, or any member helping with the contest, will not be responsible for any damage or loss. I understand if my item wins first place, it must progress to the next level of the contest.

Signed _____
Date

County _____
District

Special Interest Group

Home Address

City _____
Zip

Phone _____
E-mail Address

Item(s) Description:

CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS DAY

Thurs., February 20th, 11:00am

Come join the celebration of your achievements in 2019! This is a day to recognize how much ECA members have accomplished over the past year. Don't miss out on the festivities! We'll have a potluck luncheon. You can sign up to bring your favorite dish at our February 6th monthly meeting. If you are unable to attend the monthly meeting, please call Pam Bryson and let her know what you will bring. RSVP for Achievement Day Celebration by Wednesday, February 12th.

BUILDING ENTRANCE REMINDERS

- Volunteers and guests should utilize the front door entrance, which has been updated to accommodate handicap accessibility.
- The back door remains an "Employee Only" entrance. Carts are available if you need assistance in transporting items from your car to the inside of the building. Also, keeping the back door open (such as during loading/unloading cars) causes the building's temperature to change, which is especially uncomfortable during the cooler seasons.
- Please do not use the side door as an entrance - this is often an interruption to meetings and workshops being held in the multi-purpose room.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Workshop Registration Information:

1. Pre-registration including payment of registration fees is required by the registration deadline. **If you have not registered by the deadline you cannot take the class.** Registration form should be completed and dropped off or mailed to the Lucile Tatum Center. **Note: Check only, made payable to Gaston Co. ECA - no cash is accepted.**
2. Refunds for participant cancellations made after the registration deadline will not be provided.
3. Please note that class location, time, and fees vary with each class.
4. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact 704.865.3291 within five business days before the event.
5. Be respectful of the "Fragrance Free" Policy at the Lucile Tatum Center. Do not wear fragrances - no perfumes, scented lotions, body sprays, aftershave, etc.
6. Gaston County strives to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access its programs, services and activities. If you will require assistance to participate in a program, service or activity of Gaston County, we request that you contact our office at least 5 business days before the event.

Snowman Table Topper/Wallhanging: Thurs., February 6th & 27th (two sessions)

Time: 6 - 8:30pm | \$8- ECA members; \$10-Non ECA members

Registration Deadline: January 30th

Instructor: Linda Jozwiakowski

Supplies Needed: fabric scissors, pins, other supplies list available when registered. Some supplies will be provided by instructor.

We will be learning fusing appliques for this simple project that could be a table topper or mini wallhanging.

Game Day: Fri., February 7th
Time: 1:30 - 4:30pm | free
Registration Deadline: Thurs., February 6th
Instructor: Linda Jozwiakowski

Dominoes, cards, and a game, Quirkle, will be available. Bring any games you would like us to try and we will decide which ones to enjoy. We will have tea and maybe something to nibble on while we enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Sign up so we know we will have enough people for a game or two.

Card Making Class with Linda: Mon., February 10th
Time: 2:00 - 4:30pm | \$10 - ECA members; \$12-Non ECA members
Registration Deadline: Thurs., February 6th
Instructor: Linda Alexander

Supplies Needed: all supplies provided

Here is an opportunity to start stocking up on the greeting cards that you use throughout the year. You will make 2 birthday cards, a thank you card and a get well card. Plus you will learn some new techniques while you make your cards. Come join us for a relaxing afternoon and good fellowship while you improve your card making skills.

Book Club: Mon., February 10th
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm | free - ECA members and non-ECA members
Registration Deadline: Fri., February 7th
Facilitator: Pamela Myers
At the home of a member. Notify Pamela if you want to attend -
pcmyers2013@hotmail.com

This month's selection is *Fool Me Once* by Harlan Coben. A widowed veteran gets the shock of her life when she sees an image of her dead husband on her nanny cam. Can you believe everything you see?

Day Trip: Treasures of the Earth Pottery Show and Sale: Wed., February 12th
Time: 9:00am | free - ECA members and non-ECA members
Registration Deadline: Fri., February 7th
Facilitator: Linda Jozwiakowski

The Cleveland County Arts Council highlights the pottery of regional artists, including a Gastonia artist, Vickie Gill. We will view the display held at the Cleveland County Arts Council (located at 1111 S. Washington St., Shelby) and have an opportunity to purchase items, too! We will pick a Shelby restaurant for lunch before heading home. Donations for the museum are welcome but no charge listed for the event.

Painted Bottles: Mon., February 17th

Time: 5:30 - 9:30pm | \$5 - ECA members; \$7 - non-ECA members

Registration Deadline: Thurs., February 13th

Instructor: Pamela Myers

Bring an empty bottle or jar—it can be wine or pickles or anything-- and we'll paint pretty flowers on it similar to these pictures. Bottles do not have to be clear—bring a colored bottle! We will not be painting a background color on the bottle/jar. You can add lights later if you choose to make a pretty centerpiece for your mantle or table. You bring: paint brushes, water container, a few good paper towels and your bottle. Paint will be provided.



Raising Backyard Chickens: Thurs., February 20th

Time: 6:30pm- 8:30pm | free - ECA members and non-ECA members

Registration Deadline: Thurs., February 13th

Instructor: Lara Worden

Have you been tempted to try to join the many people raising their own chickens and enjoying “farm-fresh” eggs? Here is a FREE program offered by Lara Worden, Agriculture Extension Agent to help you decide if raising chickens is for you.

This program will teach you the basics of raising chickens: breeds, where to buy hatchlings and when; requirements for housing, feeding space, and lights; plus, the regulations for selling eggs from home.

Read Across America Day Book Exchange: Mon., March 2nd

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm | free - ECA members and non-ECA members

Registration Deadline: Wed., February 26th

Facilitator: Pamela Myers

March 2nd is ‘Reading Across America Day’. To celebrate this event, ECA will have a book exchange. Bring a book (up to 5) you have read and enjoyed. Then choose books someone else enjoyed and left for you!

FRIENDLY ECA REMINDERS

2020 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Please mark your calendars with the following Lucile Tatum closings:

Good Friday	April 10	Friday
Memorial Day	May 25	Monday
Independence Day	July 3	Friday
Labor Day	September 7	Monday
Veterans Day	November 11	Wednesday
Thanksgiving	November 26 & 27	Thursday & Friday



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DEADLINE

The deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is the 10th of the month. If the 10th falls on a weekend the information is due before the 10th. Information received after the 10th will be included in the following month's newsletter.

FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER? PLEASE STAY AT HOME

For the health of ECA members, staff, and visitors please stay home when you are sick or not feeling well.

FRAGRANCE-FREE POLICY

For the health and comfort of our staff and volunteers, we strive to be as fragrance-free as possible. Please do not wear fragrances - no perfumes, scented locations, body sprays, aftershave, etc. This policy includes all business hours, after-hours and weekends.

DAILY HOUSEKEEPING SCHEDULE

The Lucile Tatum Center is closed daily from 12:00 - 1:00pm for servicing by cleaning personnel. Please do not ask the cleaning staff to stay in the building they do not have authorization to permit this. You must ask Pam Bryson at least a week in advance for permission to stay in the building during lunch. This will only be allowed for County functions or meetings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

All ECA club meetings, lifestyle classes or any other ECA activity scheduled at the Lucile Tatum Center will follow the Gaston Co. School system cancellation schedule for all activities, workshops, etc. as follows:

1. *During school cancellation:* If the school system is closed during inclement weather, all ECA meetings, classes and activities will be cancelled.
2. *During school delays:* If the school system is on a delayed schedule, ECA activities not affected by the delay will continue as scheduled. If the ECA activity is scheduled prior to the beginning of the delayed school schedule - these events will be cancelled.
3. When ECA activities are cancelled, it is the ECA President's responsibility to notify members of the cancellation. The ECA Liaison will be responsible for working with program instructors to ensure that all participants are notified of delays/cancellations.

SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER

Many thanks to Betty Agerton, who has agreed to send cards to ECA members who are sick, hospitalized, or experienced the loss of a loved one. Please let Betty know if any members who are in your special interest group have the need for a card. We would appreciate it if only one person from your Special Interest Group would contact Betty. If the ECA member is not part of a special interest group, please let Pam Bryson or Pamela Myers know.

NC ECA STATE INFORMATION BOOK

There is a red book in the project room that has all the information about the NCECA included: bylaws, standing rules, current year book, general information/forms, cultural arts/forms. This book is for review at the Lucile Tatum Center - please do not remove.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

- January, February, March, October, & November: first Thursday - 10:00am
- April, May, June, August & September: first Thursday - 6:30pm
- No meeting in July
- Christmas party in December

ECA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- Creative Needlers – Wednesdays, 6 - 8pm @ Lucile Tatum Center (except the last Wednesday of the month); Warm Up America - Last Wednesday of the month, 6 - 8pm (contact: Ruth Ferns)
- Lucile Tatum - called meetings only (contact: Sharon Smith)
- Martha Goebel - 1st Tuesday, 10:00am (contact: Mary Upton)
- Quiltmakers - 3rd Thursday, 6:30pm (contact: Linda Jozwiakowski)
- Scrappers Unlimited - 3rd Saturday, 10:00am - 12:00pm & 2:00pm - 6:00pm (contact: Sheri Vance)

ECA 2020 PROJECTS

The following projects are ongoing and supported by all ECA clubs:

1. Ronald McDonald House: collection of drink tabs (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
2. Gaston County Schools: collecting Campbell soup labels and education labels from food containers (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
3. First Baptist Mission Trips: collecting eyeglasses (contact: Martha Spurrier)
4. Pennies for Friendship: supports Association of Country World Women (contact: Angela Nona)
5. Baby Quilts & Baby Caps: making quilts and caps for infants in the neonatal intensive unit at CaroMont Regional Medical Center (contact: Gloria Snyder & Angela Nona)
6. Surgical Pillows: sewing pillows for surgical patients of CaroMont Regional Medical Center
7. Operation Gratitude: knitting/crocheting scarves for the military (contact: Carol Dillinger)
8. Shirt Savers for Holy Angels: making shirt savers for residents – cloth/supplies purchased by Holy Angels (contact: Martha Spurrier)
9. Farmers Market Activities: local food demos provided onsite at the Gastonia Farmers' Market from May through September (contact: Linda Jozwiakowski)
10. Women's House for Habitat for Humanity
11. Catherine's House: collect supplies needed (contact: Audrey Hunt)

GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020

President - Patti Wells President-Elect - Audrey Hunt Secretary - Ruth Ferns
Treasurer - Angela Nona Advisor - Pamela Myers

Committee Chairs:

- Building Committee - vacant
- Ceramic Room Committee - Rita Kincaid
- Marketing Committee - vacant
- Program Committee - Linda Jozwiakowski
- Scholarship Committee - Kathie Andrews

LUCILE TATUM CENTER

Location & Mailing Address: 959 Osceola St., Gastonia, NC 28054

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 5pm (closed daily from 12-1pm)

For More Information:

Pam Bryson - Gaston County ECA Liaison

Phone: 704.865.3291

Email: pam.bryson@gastongov.com

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Mailing Address: PO Box 1578, Gastonia, NC 28053

Physical Address: Citizens Resource Center, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas, NC

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday | 8am - 5pm

For More Information:

Phone: 704.922.2111

Website: gaston.ces.ncsu.edu

NC Cooperative extension website: go.ncsu.edu/nceca

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[@ExtensionHealthyLiving](#) (NC Cooperative Extension: Nutrition & Wellness Programs)

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ECA Monthly Meeting Minutes

Gaston County Extension & Community Association (ECA)

January 2, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members were reminded to turn off cell phones, sign in and to turn in the Monthly Hours Sheet to Pam Bryson.

Pledge to Flag

Thought for the Day provided by Jane Falls. World Kindness Day reminds us to be kind to one another. Tell people you appreciate them.

Old and Continuing Business Items

Approval of Minutes were approved with one change—never use the side door to enter the building. Always use the front door.

Treasurer's Report was approved as published.

Christmas Bazaar update by Audrey Hunt. Event made a net profit of \$767.09. There were 16 vendors of which 4 were ECA members and 12 outside vendors. The majority of the profit was from the sale of tables. The price of the tables was set as a fundraiser for ECA. The event provided great fellowship, and potential for new members. Vendor feedback was to get more people coming into the building. As a first time event, vendors felt it was well organized and they would be willing to participate again. We need money to market our organization. Thank you to the committee that helped to organize the event: Mary Upton and Sandy Hamrick. If ECA wants to do this event again, a new chairperson will need to be identified as Audrey will not be able to do it again.

Thank you to all who baked cakes for the Commissioners. Patti Wells and Pam Myers delivered the cakes

NEW BUSINESS

Member Updates:

- Ruth Ferns had a heart attack and bypass surgery just before Christmas. She is now home but unable to drive and could use assistance if you are available.
- Gloria Snyder is moving back to Gastonia from Stanley. She needs help packing her fabric for her move on January 27. She has boxes and containers. Please call her if you can help. Her phone number is 704-931-0280

Project Room book has been updated. Draft will be sent via email to members for review before implementing new rules. Be sure that any project you have completed for charity (scarves, pillows, baby quilts, etc.) is logged in the book. If you are working with

any equipment/machine, be sure at least two people are in the building. This is a safety requirement.

Chairpersons Needed for Standing Committees:

- Martha Spurrier has resigned as chairperson of the Building Committee. We need someone to fill that position. The building committee is responsible for coordinating repairs, decorating the building, coordinating the annual cleaning and coordinating the inventory every two years. See the Standing Rules for more information.
- Audrey Hunt is resigning as chairperson of the Marketing Committee. Suggest that the Marketing Committee be comprised of 3 or 4 individuals with one of the individuals being responsible for Social Media updates. The primary responsibility of this committee is to get the ECA name out in the community to get new people into the organization. Information is forwarded to Will at the Gazette about classes and events. Information is also sent to Geri Bushell for the Tar Heel newsletter. The committee also coordinates participation in events such as health fairs.

Side Door Reminder: ALWAYS enter through the front door. NEVER enter through the side door. This is a change from what was previously communicated. If you have an event that uses the kitchen and has a lot of food that needs to go to the kitchen through the back door, contact Pam Bryson.

Leader/Member of the Year: Start thinking of who you'd like to nominate. Forms have been updated and are available in the lobby. The form is also in the January newsletter.

Non-Smoking Campus: The Lucile Tatum campus will be designated by the county as a non-smoking campus for in July 2020

Cancellation of meetings/events: Reminder to Special Interest Groups and members to please notify Pam Bryson if they are not going to meet in the building. If a meeting time or event is cancelled, contact Pam Bryson so she can post a sign to notify people of the cancellation. This is especially important for after hours or weekend meetings. This also allows Pam to schedule other meetings or events. If possible, notify Pam Bryson by the 10th of prior month so it can go into the newsletter.

Standing Rules Update: Pam Myers is drafting an addition to Standing Rules to include regulations about what happens to funds and equipment purchased by a Special Interest Group when the group dissolves.

Building clean-up is scheduled for January 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. This includes the Project Room and lockers. Special interest groups can schedule time with Pam Bryson to clean out lockers.

Scholarship applications will be sent to the schools in January. The school system has offered to send the information via a mass email and to post information on their website so parents have access to it. Linda Minges has posted the information on the ECA Facebook page.

Yearly reports are due. A new form has been created by NC State to capture information. The forms are available at the center. The new form consolidates information into categories. Please do the best you can to provide as much of the information requested as you can. For numbers reached and dollars spent/donated, make an educated guess based on your knowledge of the events you participated in.

Fundraising opportunities: We need to start thinking about fundraising opportunities for 2020. Several suggestions were discussed: Kyle Fletcher BBQ (presale of meals), a plant sale before Mother's Day, Poinsettia sale before Christmas, Soup Meal that includes a bowl and an ECA cookbook.

Standing Committee Reports

- Building Committee – Martha Spurrier: Jan 3 scheduled to take down Christmas. Please bring back any kitchen towels or dishcloths you have taken home. Building cleanup scheduled for January 21.
- Ceramic Room Committee - Rita Kincaid: Pouring porcelain shells for a class in February-max of 5 people. Firming up schedule of when ceramic room will be open.
- Marketing Committee - Audrey Hunt: Pen given to members today—give this to a non-member and tell them about ECA. ECA brochure needs to be updated. Please provide ideas about how this brochure can be updated.
- Programs Committee – Pamela Myers: March 2 is “Reading Across America”, how would we like to celebrate this event? Several ideas were discussed: reading to children at preschools, read at nursing home, create a pillow book for the Least of These. Billie Taylor described a need at the Pleasant Ridge Elementary School. The principal is collecting books to give to each child on his/her birthday. Billie Taylor made a motion to support this effort by bringing in books to donate, Jane Falls seconded. Passed unanimously. Members also voted to have a “Bring One/Take One Day” on March 2 where anyone can bring in a book they no longer want and take one they'd like to read.
Event will be from 8:30-4:30 on March 2.
- Home Center – Pam Bryson: Items in refrigerator that are empty or expired have been discarded.

Reminder to pay \$20 dues if you have not already done so

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.