

## **EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY April 2020 Newsletter**

### **COUNTY BUILDING SCHEDULE**

Currently the Lucile Tatum Center and Citizens Resource Center (N.C. Cooperative Extension Office) is closed to the public due guidance for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Staff are still working and you can contact them by phone or email as needed.

### **IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES CANCELLED FOR NEXT 60 DAYS**

Effective as of March 21, 2020, ALL in-person N.C. Cooperative Extension (including ECA) activities scheduled for the next 60 days are cancelled, unless they can be done online. This includes all in-person meetings and workshops held at the Lucile Tatum Center.

If you have questions about cancellations, please contact the Lucile Tatum Center (704.865.3291) or ECA President. The ECA Liaison will be responsible for working with program instructors to ensure that all participants are notified of delays/cancellations.

### **APRIL & MAY MONTHLY ECA MEETINGS: CANCELLED**

Based on current guidance from N.C. Cooperative Extension, related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the monthly ECA meetings scheduled for April 2 and May 7th have been cancelled.

### **CORONAVIRUS CALL CENTER**

More information about the Coronavirus and local preparations can be found online at: [www.gastongov.com/coronavirus](http://www.gastongov.com/coronavirus). Gaston Department of Health & Human Services has also opened up a call center to help answer your questions or concerns. The public can call (704) 862-5303 between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Gaston County ECA in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension continues to closely follow all developments and recommendations from local and state officials about this rapidly evolving situation relative to the Coronavirus. Gaston County is taking proactive steps towards preventing the spread of the Coronavirus which includes things like travel and meeting restrictions.

### **APRIL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

The ECA Executive Board will work with NC Cooperative Extension staff to set-up a phone conference call as needed. Details of meeting date/time will be shared with membership via email.

### **HOLIDAY CLOSING**

The Lucile Tatum Center and Cooperative Extension offices will be closed on Friday, April 10th for the Easter Holiday.

## **ECA STATE AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

The NCECA Leadership Team met March 12, 2020, and approved the following motion made by Joan Quinn and seconded by Betsy Odell:

*“Put all District and State North Carolina Extension and Community Association activities on hold until further notice.”*

The Leadership Team will revisit the situation at the April leadership team meeting and we will continue to communicate updates with everyone. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Safety First!!!

## **2020 GASTON ECA SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000)**

*Submission deadline: April 2nd*

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](http://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu)) and at the Lucile Tatum Center.

## **UPCOMING VOTE: ADDITIONS TO ECA STANDING RULES**

Please come to the next monthly ECA meeting (date to determined at later time due to COVID-19) to cast your vote, email your vote or call Patti Wells with your vote on the following issue:

### **PROPOSED ADDITION TO STANDING RULES**

March 5, 2020

Add the following to Section 9. Special Interest Groups

5. All equipment purchased by a Special Interest Group should be of benefit to the Group to improve skills or to use for community service. Such equipment belongs to the Group as long as the Group is active. Equipment should be made available to ECA members outside of the Special Interest Group by making a reasonable request to the Group’s contact person. Proceeds of any equipment sold will be deposited to the Group’s line item in the Gaston County ECA budget.
6. Dissolution of Special Interest Group: A Special Interest Group may be dissolved by a majority vote of its members. Upon dissolution, the following steps must be taken:
  - A. If the Special Interest Group has any money in the treasury, the Group members must determine how the Group funds will be disbursed. Funds cannot be distributed amongst the Group members. Funds can be donated to an organized charity or transferred to the Gaston County ECA General Fund, Scholarships, or another budget line item. Failure of the Special Interest Group to determine how the funds will be used will result in all funds being transferred into the Gaston County ECA Scholarship Fund.

- B. Contact person must notify the ECA Liaison of the dissolution so that the group can be removed from the newsletter listing of Special Interest Groups.
- C. Upon dissolution of the Special Interest Group, all property purchased by the Group automatically transfers to the Gaston County ECA. Property may not be taken by any member of the Special Interest Group. Arrangements should be made with the ECA Liaison to move the equipment to an appropriate location.

**SUPPORT ECA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*2020 Community Foundation Run*



The 2020 Community Foundation Run scheduled for April 4th has been canceled. Due to the months of planning that it takes to coordinate the event and the number of vendors that are involved, unfortunately it's just not possible to reschedule. However, we've been working on plans to have a "virtual race" instead. Please understand the cancellation in no way affects what an organization has already raised or if it will be matched. **Fundraising will continue through Monday, April 13th.** We know that you have a lot of questions. Please take a moment to visit [www.cfgaston.org/RUN](http://www.cfgaston.org/RUN) for all the information.

The Community Foundation Run is the major fundraiser for our ECA Scholarship fund. There are several ways you can help:

1. Easiest - donate generously! The forms are available at the Lucile Tatum Center (or you may get one in the mail). Be sure to identify Gaston County Extension & Community Association as the recipient of your donation. The Community Foundation matches a percentage of all the donated dollars based on a ratio of the total amount of dollars collected in the match pot compared to the amount of eligible donor contributions. This means your donation could result in a greater return to ECA! Donate before April 13th to be sure your donation is eligible for matching!
2. Easy - run or walk in the event! There is a certified 5K Run and a 2K Fun Walk. See the Community Foundation website for more information and registration.
3. Easy - volunteer to help at the event! Contact the Community Foundation to learn more.
4. Visit their website for more information. <http://www.cfgaston.org/> --and click on Learn/Community Foundation Run.

**2020 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

Please mark your calendars with the following Lucile Tatum Center 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  
Christmas

November 26 & 27  
December 23, 24, 25

Thursday & Friday  
Wed - Thurs - Fr

### **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.

### **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.

### **MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE**

- No meeting in April and May (due to COVID-19 guidance)
- June, August & September: first Thursday - 6:30pm
- No meeting in July
- October, & November: first Thursday - 10:00am
- Christmas party in December

### **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

## **GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020**

President - Patti Wells      President-Elect - Audrey Hunt      Secretary - Billie Taylor  
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](mailto: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

Building is currently closed to the public (due to COVID-19 guidance)

For More Information:

Phone: 704.922.2111

Website: [gaston.ces.ncsu.edu](http://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu)

NC Cooperative extension website: [go.ncsu.edu/nceca](http://go.ncsu.edu/nceca)

## **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:**

[@gastoneca](#) (Gaston Co. ECA)

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

[@GastonExtension](#) (NC Cooperative Extension)

## **ECA Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Pamela Myers at ten o'clock. Attending members were reminded to turn off cell phones, sign in on the sheet and to turn in their monthly Hours Sheet to Pam Bryson.

The pledge to the Flag was recited and the Speaker was introduced. Mr. Greg McGinnis, the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, spoke about making your yard friendly to wild birds which are decreasing in number mostly due to habitat loss. He demonstrated different types of bird feeders and shared many facts on creating bird friendly backyards. Each member was given a Hobby Guide booklet with many more helpful hints on attracting wild birds. Wild Birds Unlimited is located in the Franklin Mall area opposite Ashley furniture.

Pamela Myers read the thought for the day, a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The minutes were approved as presented. Members were reminded to use the back door while the parking lot is unfinished and then only the Front Door. The side door is never to be used as an entrance.

Angela Nona was awarded Leader of the Year and Sandy Hamrick was named Member of the Year on Achievement Day.

Members were reminded to inform Pam Bryson if regularly scheduled meetings are not going to be held as usual, since that opens up areas of the building that can be used for other events. If possible, let Pam know by the 10th of the month so that the information can be in the newsletter, but even if the meeting is called off, cancelling your room reservation even if the notice is short allows the room to be used for other purposes.

The Treasurer's report needed to have the ending balance column formulated so that balances are correct. Report was approved suggested edits to formulas.

New business included:

- Reminders that our club is responsible for two door prizes worth \$10 each on District Day, District Day which is on April 28, 2020 at Cabarrus County (cost \$15 for meal which needs to be in to Pam Bryson by April 15)
- Information about our responsibilities for the Community Run on April 4<sup>th</sup>, which is the main fundraiser for our scholarship fund
- The results of the Read Across America activities (on Monday Angela Nona and Pamela Myers delivered 11 book pillows to Caromont Pediatric Unit – they were received with great appreciation; Linda J. Patti Wells, Pam Myers and Angela Nona manned the Monday book exchange which was poorly attended otherwise, probably due to the parking lot. Books collected for Pleasant Ridge Elementary School were delivered by Angela Nona and Rita Kincaid after the meeting on Thursday.

- On Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Linda J, Patti Wells, Pamela Myers and Angela Nona totaled the volunteer hours for 2019 for all the members who turned in their monthly volunteer hours. The total for the year was 10, 559.12 hours for 37 members. Just imagine what the total would be if all members turned in reports. And thank you, ladies, for taking the time to add up those hours. Pamela Myers input all this data to the NCECA website. A suggestion was made by Linda J to present a 'check' to the county commissioners at one of their meetings with these hours and what they equal in volunteer hours to the community. Another suggestion was made to have a meeting at the end of the year so everyone can create their annual reports and get questions answered. Rita Kincaid has created a new form that can be used to record monthly hours and made it easier to tabulate annual numbers. This report will be reviewed by the board and presented at the April meeting.
- Discussion about the cookbook project and the Auto Bell Fundraising Project were tabled for the April meeting, with the hope that more members will be able to attend. Linda Minges will have a paid intern soon that might be able to help with this project.
- Pamela Myers has drafted an addition to Standing Rules which includes regulation about what happens to funds and equipment when a Special Interest Group dissolves. Note that the date on the proposal distributed should be March 5, 2020, not 2019. This will be voted on during the April meeting, which will occur on April 7<sup>th</sup> **at 6:30 PM in the evening!!!**
- Somethin' Pumpkin is scheduled for October 3, separate from Cotton Ginning Days. Discussion about how ECA wants to be involved ensued. Martha Spurrier made a motion to have a craft table with food related items (aprons, dishcloths, etc. as well as baked goods on sale. This craft table/sale would replace the Cotton Ginning Days booth. Angela seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. The April meeting will establish a committee to do advance planning and prep for this event.
- Patti Wells will be contacting members on an individual basis to find someone for the Building chair or co-chair position. The Board members discussed reducing the amount of decorating requirements to Christmas and one or two other seasons so that the committee responsibilities are more manageable.
- Rita Kincaid reported that there is one upcoming class on decorating ceramic eggs on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 on both days. This is a drop in type class as decorating ceramic eggs is as easy as decorating real ones. Individuals can choose how much time they wish to devote – just have to wait for the paint to dry!!! Ceramic eggs, brushes and paints will be supplied. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome as are all egg loving folks of any age.
- Audrey Hunt is contacting members on an individual basis to identify a Marketing chair and form a marketing committee. We especially need someone who can manage our Facebook account.

- Linda J reported on Programs. The last few classes have been well attended. We need information on the types of classes or programs members want.
- Pam Bryson gave a Home Center update: Make sure all lights are turned off when leaving the building at night. This includes hallways and bathrooms and be sure the fan in the kitchen is turned off. The items in the closet from Cotton Ginning Days need to be removed. She has received a compliment from the cleaning woman that the center has been kept clean.
- A suggestion was made that ECA would like more information about volunteer needs at Somethin' Pumpkin so that the needs can be communicated to the membership early. We also need the information on donation/sponsorship for discussion at the April meeting.
- Door prize donated by Audrey Hunt was won by Bertie Smith.
- Reminder that the April meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in April.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**ECA Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
Gaston County Extension & Community Association (ECA)  
February 27, 2020**

Call to order at 10:00 AM

Attending: Patti Wells, Pamela Myers, Audrey Hunt, Rita Kincaid, Angela Nona, Linda Minges, Pam Bryson and Billie Taylor

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Angela Nona did not have a checking account update due to mail not being delivered because of the parking lot being torn up. She stated there was a charge on the bank account in the amount of \$190. She will need to get statements to see what it is for. Pam Bryson is to check with the Post Office to see if we can pick up the mail there until the parking lot is finished.
- Angela is to work on getting I99 Form completed and to IRS.
- There was discussion as to how much the marketing grant was \$865 or \$835. Emails were Checked by Linda Mingus and the amount is confirmed at \$835 that was deposited.
- Linda Minges stated that staff is using the computer in the meeting room a lot, so please call
- Ahead to see if it is available for use when you need to use it.
- Patti Wells reminded everyone that National Reading Across America is Monday, March 2, 2020. Eleven pillows to hold books have been made and will be taken to the hospital for Children. Billie will check with the Principal at Pleasant Ridge to see when she can deliver Children books to be handed out on the children's birthday.
- ECA Book Exchange is March 3, 2020 from 10-12 am and 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Lucille Tatum.



## New Business:

- Angela went to Hobby Lobby to get 3 easels on sale, they only had one, but she got a raincheck So she can go back when they are on sale to purchase three.
- Linda J. Was not in attendance and there was no State Meeting update.
- Achievement Day was a success with Leader of the Year award going to Angela Nona and
- Member of the Year going to Sandy Hamrick. The plaque will need to be updated.
- Patti asked for volunteers to contact grocery stores for donations at special events, sick as food, gift card, drinks, etc. It was discussed about having food at each general meeting there were some people against this, so it was tabled to be brought up at general meeting before making a decision. Patti will send a Thank You note to Mgr. of FoodLion for the gift card used at Achievement Day.
- Pam Myers presented a proposed addition to the Standing Rules regarding dissolution of Special Interest Group or ECA and about ownership of equipment purchased by Special Interest Groups. This will be in the March newsletter and voted on in April, 2020 at the general meeting.
- Pam Myers gave update on possible AutoBell Car Wash fundraiser and gave out copies
- of what their requirements are. Our profit would be 50% of sales of \$20 Gift Cards. As we are now a 501(c)(3) we would qualify for this fundraiser.
- We have an invitation to South Central ECA District Day from Cabarrus County April 28, 2020.
- Gaston Community Foundation Run is April 4th. Money to run needs to be in March 15th and is \$25. Please encourage everyone to make a donation to the run for ECA which will be matched. This is a good fundraiser for ECA.
- Something Pumpkin will be October 3, 2020 at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas, NC. How involved does ECA want to be in this event? Do we want to have a table set up to sell RADA?
- Patti discussed whether we wanted to have a Volunteer Thank You Brunch this year. Dates were looked at and it can be May 30th or June 20th. This will be discussed at the general Meeting.
- Pam Bryson gave out Monthly Meeting Schedule and Executive Board Meeting Schedule.
- One change was from August 20 to August 27th. Important Dates to remember are April
- 28th District Day and October 25-27 State Meeting.
- Standing Committee Reports:
- Building Committee - We still need a chairman of this committee. It was suggested that
- Patti will contact Lucy B. And see if she would chair this committee with her daughter,

- Dawn G. As co-chair. It was also suggested that Audrey ask Dana Croston, a new member, about chairing this committee. There is a project room committee with 4 members to handle the Project room, so this chairperson would basically be responsible for decorating the building on holidays. The decorations have been scaled down to the foyer and the multi purpose Room. This committee meets quarterly.
- Programs Committee - Linda J was not present but sent an email about upcoming programs. There will be a speaker at the March ECA meeting with information on birds. Also David Fogarty will speak in May on various programs being planned for ECA.
- Linda J. suggests that we put copies of just our classes offered in the public libraries, not the entire ECA newsletter. Someone would need to deliver these to the 6 branches of the library.
- We are asked to do 2 baskets for the State Meeting in October and 2 door prizes @ \$10 each.
- The theme of the meeting is "Mysteries of ECA". This will be presented at the general meeting In April.
- Ceramic Room Committee - Rita said they will be doing ceramic Easter eggs March 17 and 18 and finishing the shelves in the ceramic room. Any ideas for ceramics would be appreciated.
- Marketing Committee - Audrey is working on the new table covering for ECA to replace the heavy one we have now that is so bulky.
- Next Executive Board Meeting March 26th