

EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY January 2021 Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of the ECA Executive Board and Extension staff, we would like to thank you for renewing your membership for 2021. We know that COVID-19 continues to restrict many ECA activities, but hope that the recent development of vaccines will bring new hope for 2021.

We have 37 members and the 2021 Special Interest Groups include:

- Creative Needlers - contact person: Rita Kincaid
- Lucile Tatum - contact person: Martha Spurrier
- Martha Goebel - contact person: Mary Upton
- Quiltmakers - contact person: Patti Wells (while Linda Jozwiakowski is recuperating)

The Executive Board plans to reach out to each Special Interest Group, along with the standing committees, to identify goals for 2021 - this is designed to help move the organization forward and focus on what we can do throughout the year.

UPCOMING ECA MEETING - ONLINE OR PHONE

Thurs., January 7th - 10:00am

Join us for our monthly meeting - you can participate online or by phone. During our January meeting, the program will be presented by Gaston County Extension Director, David Fogarty, who will provide a brief update on NC Cooperative Extension.

You can participate via zoom or by phone

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/97390096519?pwd=VGI2TFdML1FTMkIRZTA1TURCWjFpZz09>

Join by Phone: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 973 9009 6519 Passcode: 739839

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's meeting. We had 7 individuals who joined in and it was great to check in and hear your voices. Although our online meetings do not replace seeing folks in person, the online option is a critical tool for us to conduct business and make decisions. Your flexibility and willingness to try new things is greatly appreciated!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thurs., January 21st | 10:00am - 11:30am

All board members are requested to attend this online meeting - please contact Audrey Hunt if you are unable to participate. 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 next monthly meeting is encouraged to attend.

BUILDING CLOSINGS

- January 1st - New Year's Day
- January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

2020 ECA FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who participated in the fundraiser with South of the Border Restaurant in October. From this one day event, Gaston County ECA received \$153 in funds. The Executive Board will keep everyone updated about future opportunities to host this event during 2021.

Building Use Policy for the Lucile Tatum Center - Updated 12.13.20

The following COVID-19 guidance is provided in accordance with the Governor's Phase 3.0, NC State University, and Gaston County Government:

1. The Lucile Tatum Center is currently open to the public by appointment only and individuals must wear a face covering. The building is not available for rental use during this time.
2. Visitors and volunteers are to enter the building through the front entrance only. Temperatures will be checked before entering the building. Anyone that has a temperature reading of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter the building. Three questions will also be asked to everyone entering the building. If they answer yes to any of the questions they will not be allowed in the building. Staff will follow county protocol and participants will not be allowed in the building.
3. During this time building use is for business only – this includes Extension & Community Association (ECA) activities. Volunteers are restricted from using the Center for personal activities.
4. *Due to recent increases in COVID-19 cases, all ECA workshops are cancelled until further notice.*
5. The Ceramic Room can be reserved for loading/unloading the kiln for ECA workshop activities only. This room is limited to one individual at a time for a maximum duration of two hours. Face coverings are to be worn and individuals are required to practice social distancing. Individuals are required to clean everything that is touched (including tables, chairs, used equipment, etc.) with provided sanitizing wipes. Disposable gloves will be provided and should be worn when loading/unloading the kiln and handling molds. No painting or other ceramic-related activities are permitted at this time.

For further information: Pam Bryson, Lucile Tatum Center Director
704.865.3291 or pam.bryson@gastongov.com

FUNDRAISER PROJECT

The cookbook project is still a viable fundraiser, but we need a committee to head this up and get it rolling. We think it would be best to let this ride until January or February 2021 so do some soul searching and see if this is something you would be willing to chair. Some of the research has already been done. There are some who have expressed a desire to help but just can't head up the project.

STATE ECA CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

The state ECA has formed a cultural arts committee to look at the definition for categories in the Cultural Arts Competition and suggestions for categories to add or eliminate. Rose Cotton is the chairman of this committee and Linda Jozwiakowski is one of the committee members. Rose invites any ECA member to offer positive suggestions for categories or definitions. Please let Linda Jozwiakowski or Rose Cotton know of your suggestions. The committee will be working on revisions for the 2022 competitions. The current categories will apply for the 2021 competitions.

ECA WEBSITE UPDATE

Please note that information has been updated on our website, located at: <https://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston-eca/>. At this site, you can find copies of the newsletter, forms, and operational guidelines for ECA at both the state and county level.

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.

MEMBER UPDATE

Many of our members are dealing with health issues and the isolation restrictions created by COVID continues to be a burden. Please reach out to ECA members with a phone call or card - your contact is so important and a great way to help check in with our members.

Please let others or Extension staff know if you become sick, develop health concerns, or have special needs, during this most difficult time. We are family and can work together to help look after each other!

Please give members a call during this time...some of our members have had COVID and are dealing with other health issues, too:

- Linda Jozwiakowski
- Mary Upton
- Faye Wiggins

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 Audrey Hunt know.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE (This schedule is subject to change)

- 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 2021 PROJECTS

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

1. Ronald McDonald House: collecting drink tabs (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
2. Gaston County Schools: collecting school supplies in August (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
3. First Baptist Mission Trips: collecting eyeglasses (contact: Martha Spurrier)
4. Pennies for Friendship: supporting Association of Country World Women (contact: Dana Croston)
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 (contact: Pat Mantooth)
7. Operation Gratitude: knitting/crocheting scarves for the military
8. Shirt Savers for Holy Angels: making shirt savers for residents – cloth/supplies purchased by Holy Angels (contact: Martha Spurrier)
9. Farmers Market Activities: providing local food demos at the Gastonia Farmers' Market
10. Warm Up America: making afghans for the homeless (contact: Angela Nona)
11. Habitat for Humanity Women's Build: (contact: Linda Joziwiakowski)
12. Food Pantry: collecting food supplies for local pantries, twice a year
13. Gaston Skills: providing workshops for adults with special needs (contact: Audrey Hunt or Pam Bryson)

GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

President - Audrey Hunt President-Elect - vacant Secretary - Billie Taylor
Treasurer - Dana Croston Advisor - Patti Wells

ECA Committee Contacts:

- Building Committee - vacant
- Ceramic Room Committee - vacant
- Marketing Committee - vacant

- Program Committee - Linda Jozwiakowski
- Scholarship Committee - vacant
- Special Project Committee - Pat Mantooth (this is a temporary position to be comprised of members of each Special Interest Group - to develop ideas for future workshops/classes)

Executive Board Meetings dates for 2021 every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am:

January 21st	February 18th	March 21st
April 15th	May 20th	June 17th
July 15th	August 19th	September 16th
October 21st	November 18th	December 16th

2021 ECA SPECIALTY GROUPS

- Lucile Tatum - contact: Martha Spurrier
- Martha Goebel - contact: Mary Upton
- Quiltmakers - contact: Patti Wells (while Linda Jozwiakowski is recuperating from illness)

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- New Year's Day - January 1 (Friday)
- Martin Luther King Birthday - January 18 (Monday)
- Good Friday - April 2 (Friday)
- Memorial Day - May 31 (Monday)
- Independence Day - July 5 (Monday)
- Labor Day - September 6 (Monday)
- Veterans Day - November 11 (Thursday)
- Thanksgiving - November 25 & 26 (Thursday & Friday)
- Christmas - December 24 & 27 Friday & Monday

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 Extension & Community Association website: go.ncsu.edu/nceca

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:

@gastoneca (Gaston Co. ECA)

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

@GastonExtension (NC Cooperative Extension)

Meeting Minutes
Gaston County Extension & Community Association
December 3, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order via ZOOM at 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Audrey Hunt, Pam Bryson, Pamela Myers, Patti Wells, Billie Taylor, Linda Minges, Patti Wells

Patti Wells opened meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Reminder to turn in your hours to Pam Bryson via US mail (959 Osceola St Gastonia, NC 28054) or via email (pam.bryson@gaston.gov). Please have yearly hours report to Pam Bryson by December 15. Patti and Pam Myers will do the input for NC State.

Minutes: were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Quiltmakers grant: roll of batting and walking feet have been purchased. Also looking at buying quarter inch feet. Those purchases will show on the January treasurer report.

Boys & Girls Home Gift Cards: Purchase a Walmart or Amazon gift card. Audrey will provide address to Patti. Patti will send email to all members. Deliver cards to Pam Bryson by noon on December 11 or mail the cards directly to the Boys & Girls Home.

Installation of Officers: The following individuals were installed as the Executive Board: President: Audrey Hunt, Secretary: Billie Taylor, Treasurer: Dana Croston, Past President: Patti Wells, ECA Liaison: Pam Bryson.

Programming Report: Pam Myers is teaching a painting class of ornaments on December 8. Patti Wells is teaching a quilt class on December 10 of a Cardinal. Limited number of participants. We are still looking at how to video tape one of the painting classes so we can post on Facebook.

Reminder of restrictions to Lucile Tatum building. Contact Pam Bryson if you want to enter the building. A sanitizer station has been placed in the lobby of the building. Further guidelines have been received by Gaston County. All people must wear masks at all times. No longer can remove mask when social distancing.

Ceramic Room: Linda Minges and Pam Bryson have pulled the heavier molds from the shelves. They will work with the Ceramic Room committee to determine what to do with the heavier molds. Also working with the county safety department on safety of shelving. They have removed some items from upper shelves.

Cards for Members: Patti Wells will contact Betty Agerton to send cards to Sandy Hamrick for loss of her brother, Mary Upton for her illness, Ruth Ferns family for death of Ruth Ferns. We need to be more consistent about how we address members' illnesses and losses.

Special Interest Groups: We should formalize who the contact persons are for the special interest groups. Perhaps the board can put together a meeting with the contact persons for the special interest groups. If group is not going to continue, January is a good time to clean out lockers and remove items from project room. We can try again to ask SIGs to give a report at each monthly meeting about what activities and projects they are working on. Audrey and Patti will talk about how to improve communications with the committees and SIGs.

Next meeting is January 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.