

EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY

March 2021 Newsletter

UPCOMING ECA MEETING - ONLINE OR PHONE

Thurs., March 4th - 10:00am

Join us for our monthly meeting - you can participate online or by phone.

You can participate via computer or by phone:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/96741564997?pwd=RmE5b1UxUWhwNFhRRndOdmpvZXJ5Zz09>

Join by Phone: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 967 4156 4997 Passcode: 018487

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's meeting. We had seven 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!

ECA COMMITTEE WORK

Although COVID-19 may prevent some of our ECA activities, such as in-person workshops, there is still much we can work on throughout 2021 through our committees. Both staff and ECA President will reach out to our committees to identify goals for this year - each of the following committee will be contacted soon to schedule a zoom meeting:

- Building Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Program Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Cookbook Committee

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thurs., March 18th | 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. A zoom link will be emailed to Executive Board members prior to the meeting. *Please note that a contact person from each committee needs to participate in monthly Executive Board meetings.* Also, any member who would like to have an issue discussed at the next monthly meeting is encouraged to attend.

CERAMIC ROOM UPDATE

The Ceramic Room Committee voted in January to remove the ceramic equipment/supplies, including all molds and kilns. With input from the Special Project Committee, Executive Board members, and staff the following actions will be taken:

- Molds and ceramic room supplies: large molds that are too heavy to safely move have been removed from the building. The remaining molds are now being distributed among ECA members starting Friday, January 22nd - first come, first serve. If you are interested in molds, please contact Pam Bryson to make an appointment. Molds need to be picked up by February 26th - remaining molds will be discarded.
- Kilns: both kilns will be sold by a silent auction and removed from the building as soon as possible. Please submit bids to Pam Bryson by February 26th at 12:00pm - either by phone or email. Minimum accepting bids: \$50 - large kiln; \$15 - small kiln. Bid winners (based on highest bid submitted) will be announced by email and phone call by close of business on February 26th. Kilns need to be removed from building no later than Friday, March 5th.
- Kiln room: this small room will serve as ECA Liaison storage space for office and class supplies, including supplies for Gaston Skills and youth workshops. (This results in more space for ECA use - in the project room and five hallway cubbies have been emptied for ECA use.)
- Ceramic room: will be used for ECA and other workshops, including a variety of crafting classes that can benefit from a sink and computer equipment. A small desk and computer will be placed in this room and can be used by ECA members and staff – this should make it easier to access internet for classes, as needed. The room will be renamed to the “program room” and can be reserved for use by contacting the ECA Liaison.
- Firing Fees - YR 2021: will be returned to ceramic room committee members, who paid firing fees for 2021.
- ECA Printer: the printer in the project room is not a county printer, so it cannot be connected to county computers.

2021 GASTON COUNTY ECA SCHOLARSHIP

Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Gaston County ECA plans to award at least one \$1,000 scholarship for 2021 - both youth and adults can apply. Scholarship applications are available on our website (<https://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston-eca/>) and for pickup by appointment starting Monday, January 25th. Please share this information with anyone you know who can benefit! Also, the Gaston County School system will have the application on their website.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION VIRTUAL RUN

Saturday, April 17, 2021

It's time to plan for ECA's participation in this virtual run, with proceeds benefiting the ECA scholarship fund. We need walkers and/or runners to participate in this virtual event. Donation/info form available online:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/2021cfrun>



COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER PROJECT

Plans are being made to begin work on the ECA cookbook project with the planning committee. More details to follow after the first committee meeting.

PROJECT ROOM DONATIONS

Due to COVID-19, staff are currently not accepting donations typically collected in the project room. Staff plan to work with the Building Committee to have completed blankets, lap robes, scarves, etc., distributed/mailed to their designated recipients as soon as possible.

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, scholarship applications, and operational guidelines for ECA at both the state and county level.

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.*

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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please note that staff rely on the input from ECA members for the information presented in monthly newsletters. Since there have been recent comments that information is incorrect and/or missing, we'll begin having the newsletter reviewed by the Executive Board prior to being distributed.

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. Please note that information needs to be submitted in written form to Pam Bryson.

SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER

Many thanks to ECA member, Betty Agerton, who sends cards to our 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.

Martha Goebel Special Interest Group is our new call tree partner that will be calling you monthly to notify you of ECA meetings. Thank you Martha Goebel Special Interest Group.

Martha Goebel Special Interest Group will be meeting at 10:00 am on March 2nd at the Firestone Grill.

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, since some of our members are dealing with health issues, including:

- Beste Cordell
- Faye Wiggins

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of the following ECA members:

- Anita Woody, former ECA member, who passed away on November 11, 2020.
- Pam Mantooth's sister-in-law passed away in February 2021.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE (schedule is subject to change)

Please note: We will continue with virtual meetings (1st Thursday of the month - 10am) until further notice due to COVID-19:

- 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 Mantooh)
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 (contact: Audrey Hunt)
10. Warm Up America: making afghans for the homeless (contact: Angela Nona)
11. Habitat for Humanity Women's Build
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, ECA Liaison)

GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

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

STANDING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

- Building Committee - Jean Caldwell, Peggy Dameron, Jane Falls, Sandy Hamrick, Pat Mantooh, Martha Spurrier, & Patti Wells
- Ceramic Room Committee - Betty Agerton, Pat Mantooh, & Pamela Myers
- Marketing Committee - Dana Croston, Sandy Hamrick, & Patti Wells
- Program Committee - Pamela Myers & Patti Wells
- Scholarship Committee - Chairperson: Karen Rhyne, Martha Spurrier, Billie Taylor, & Patti Wells

AD HOC (TEMPORARY) COMMITTEE CONTACTS

- Cookbook Committee - Dana Croston, Karen Rhyne, & Nina Tarte

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

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| January 21st | February 18th | March 18th |
| 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
- Scrappers Unlimited - contact: Betse Cordell
- Creative Needlers - contact: Rita Kincaid

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- 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](https://www.facebook.com/gastoneca) (Gaston Co. ECA)

[@ExtensionHealthyLiving](https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionHealthyLiving) (NC Cooperative Extension: Nutrition & Wellness Programs)

[@GastonExtension](https://www.facebook.com/GastonExtension) (NC Cooperative Extension)

Meeting Minutes
Gaston County Extension & Community Association
February 4, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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

Attending: Audrey Hunt, Pam Bryson, Betty Willis, Pamela Myers, Patti Wells, Nina Tarte, David Fogarty, Peggy Roland, Carol Dillinger

Audrey Hunt opened meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Audrey introduced David Fogarty from County Extension Director.

David Fogarty: talked about Covid and how it has challenged us. He thanked ECA for the activities we've done. Over 1000 masks were created to address the shortage of masks. Proud of how ECA has reached out to each other. Also proud of how ECA has adapted to the new technology. David's wife had Covid over Christmas and they arranged a Zoom celebration. His mother has also adopted Zoom to meet with family members. David talked about Covid restrictions. We are part of NC State and are housed in a county building so trying to meet guidelines from both. We must follow whichever guideline is the most restrictive. The restrictions to meet with youth are complicated and most volunteers are not willing to jump through those hoops. With the Lucile Tatum Center we initially set that we could have up to five people. The county just within the last two-three weeks has implemented more limited guidelines. They shut down buildings and the door to Extension offices is now locked with a doorbell. We've stopped having any group meetings for the time being. We have to be consistent and conscientious about protecting folks. Rates are getting better so we may be able to open the center soon. Extension is meeting with farmers doing a lot of zoom sessions, such as Living Better with Diabetes and Chronic Disease and cooking classes via Facebook Live. We have a new horticulture agent, Payton Flowers, and he has been able to set up many zoom meetings. We've gotten more people to attend than we get in a live session. Beekeeper meetings have been held at Venture Church in Dallas with 20 people appropriately spaced along with zoom. They've been helping schools to plant gardens. Trying to find ways to help 4H kids in outdoor venues. Don't want to do zoom because that is what they are getting in school and they need to be outside. Some opportunities to get guest speakers to talk to a group via Zoom. Going forward ECA can continue to help in the programming with Family/Consumer Science and with the Master Gardeners, preparing foods in healthy and affordable way. Getting the LTC cleaned every day will go hand in hand with opening the building to more activities but that depends on the county and NC State guidelines. Don't know when we will be able to schedule classes. If ECA has topics for a program, Linda or Pam or David may be able to find someone to make a presentation. We could open it up to the public as well. A very affordable way to have people become aware of ECA as a marketing tool. If you have questions, please share them with Pam Bryson and she will forward them to David.

Thought for Today: Take time to think, work, worship, help, enjoy friends, love, dream, laugh, plan.

Treasurer's Report not given.

January meeting minutes approved as published.

Gift Cards sent to Boys/Girls Home: Have received a response from them for one card. Pam sent an additional 7 cards.

Membership Update: Martha Goebbel group has agreed to become our call group and will make calls to members who have agreed to share their contact information. Scrappers group has stayed as a special interest group. Creative Needlers are also still a group. We have approximately 40 members.

Volunteer Hour report: Board has approved a new reporting form. This will make it easier to fill out and to total hours at the end of the year. Thank you to Rita Kincaid for creating this form. If you have not received this form via email, please let Pam Bryson know.

On the Border Update: Process and setting up the event was wonderful, but getting the money has been difficult. Talked to them 2 weeks ago and should have received money last week. As of today, we still have not received our money.

Ceramic Room update: Large/heavy molds have been removed. Remaining molds are available to ECA members for free. Call Pam Bryson to set up an appointment. Any molds remaining after February 26 will be discarded. Kilns are available via silent auction. Minimum bids are \$50 for large kiln and \$15 for small kiln. Kilns must be removed by March 5. The kiln room will be used as storage space for the ECA liaison. The ceramic room will be used by ECA for workshops. A small desk and computer will be placed in this room for use by ECA members and staff. Firing fees for 2021 will be refunded. See ECA Board Meeting Minutes for more detailed information. There is a non-profit art organization that is interested in the molds and kiln. They are making a bid on the kilns.

Motion made by Pamela Myers: Non-members who are in business may purchase molds after February 26 for a minimum donation of \$5 or \$1 per mold whichever is greater. Any remaining molds will be donated to Arts on the Greenway who will be responsible for picking them up. Second by Betty Willis. Unanimously approved.

Community Foundation Run: Virtual run is on April 17. Audrey will pick up signs for members to place in their yards. Audrey will be at the center on February 10, 9am-12pm, for members to pick up. Pam Myers, Patti Wells, Pam Bryson agreed to place signs in their yards.

Alzheimer Association Project: This was promoted by Geri Bushel at NC State. This may take more time than originally thought. Audrey and Patti have a meeting at 4:00pm today. The intent is to educate people about Alzheimer's. Depending on the information at this meeting, they will decide if this is a project we can support.

Building Update: You must make an appointment to enter the building. There are limited activities you can schedule, examples: You can come in to pick up yarn or review ceramics. Every Tuesday for the next 5 weeks, Pam Bryson will be teaching a class via zoom and will be unavailable to answer the phone.

Scholarship Update: Discussion about naming a scholarship in Linda Jozwaikowski's name. This will be discussed further at a later date. Right now the plan is to give one \$1,000 scholarship. That could be increased depending on how much we get from the run and donations. Information about the scholarship has been distributed to the schools. We've only received one applicant for the district scholarship. That applicant will be sent on to the district. Donations so far have totaled \$540.

Marketing Committee Update: Patti is working on getting the Foundation Run on Facebook.

Programming Update: Keeping in touch with Pam Bryson to schedule classes as soon as the center is available.

Quiltmakers Update: Patti is working to keep members engaged. She has two patterns for baby quilts and is creating kits to create the tops. Quiltmaker members will finish the quilts with backing and batting. Anyone interested in helping to cut the pieces or in completing a quilt, contact Patti Wells.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes
ECA Executive Board Meeting - January 21, 2021 via ZOOM - 10:00 AM

The meeting was called to order by Audrey Hunt, President at 10:00 AM. In attendance was Audrey Hunt, Patti Wells, Billie Taylor, Pam Bryson, Linda Minges, Pam Myers. Dana Croston and Jillian Willard, intern.

Updates on members: Faye Wiggins is still sick.

Treasurer's Report: Dana reported the only activity was membership dues from three new members were received.

We have two membership lists, one with everyone's information on it and one with only the information members want shared on it for the entire membership.

Pam Bryson shared about the passing of a former member, Bobbie Ledford.

Audrey shared that the State ECA has asked us to have 2 volunteers to do training on Alzheimer's for the Alzheimer's Association for information to be passed along to members. This training is extensive and Audrey and Patti Wells have agreed to do it. Linda Minges assured them there is no pressure to do this if it becomes too much.

We discussed receiving payments online for classes. Dana gave some insight on using PayPal to receive payments. There is a small fee of 2.2% plus .30 cents per transaction.

Patti suggested we talk to Cabarrus County to see how it is working there. It was also mentioned that we may want to increase prices of our classes. Linda Minges stated that she did not think Gaston County IT would go along with this but she would check with them.

Gaston County does not use Google as NC State does.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - Deadline to register online is Feb. 2nd. If anyone is willing to put a sign in their yard, please let Audrey know so she can get you a sign. Signs will be put out by Feb. 9th. The event will be done virtual and Pam Bryson will sign up as a "walker". Linda Minges suggested that letters should be sent out to members now to remind them to donate. It will also be in the Feb. newsletter. Emails should also be sent to walkers and runners. The Marketing Committee may do this.

Audrey mentioned a way that ECA could raise some money. \$1,000 will be given for the winning logo design for 2021 Run For The Money. The design is due on April 2nd. She has been working on a design and Ms. Willard offered to help.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building Committee: There are a large number of donations in the project room. We will not accept any more donations until further notice.

- Ceramic Room: On Jan. 7th there was a Zoom meeting to discuss dissolving the ceramic room and disposing of the molds and kilns. Those in attendance were: Pat Mantooth, Pam Bryson (liaison), Peggy Rowland (per proxy), Audrey Hunt, Pam Myers and Betty Agerton, (per proxy). It was decided: on Jan. 26, 2021 there will be a silent auction to auction off the large kiln (minimum \$50) and the small Kiln (minimum \$15). Molds will be offered to members and must be picked up by Feb. 26th. The silent auction bids will be submitted by 12 PM. Bid winners will be announced by closing time the afternoon of the 26th by email and phone. Bid winners will also be put in the Feb. Newsletter. Firing fees paid for 2021 will be refunded. The ceramic room will be used for an office/program room.
- Marketing Committee: No projects posted due to COVID.
- Program Committee: No report
- Scholarship Committee: Information will be in Feb. Newsletter. We will offer one \$1,000
- Scholarship this year. Letters will be sent to schools and an article in local newspapers, including Belmont and Cherryville.
- A recommendation was made by Billie Taylor to name the scholarship for Linda J. This will be discussed at the Feb. General meeting. There have been several donations made in Linda's memory and acknowledgement cards will be sent to her husband, Dennis.
- Cookbook Committee: No Report

Volunteer hour forms were discussed and a motion was made and passed to use the revised timeline form Rita Kincaid made. A copy will be emailed to each member. Please remember to submit your timeslips each month to Pam Bryson.

On The Border was contacted about our fundraiser event and we were told they had sent us a check. It was never received, so they will issue another check.

Our new intern, Jillian Willard, shared with us a little about her background and we welcomed her.

The next Executive Board meeting will be the THIRD Thursday in February, 2021.