

## **EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY May 2021 Newsletter**

### **ECA ECA ACHIEVEMENT DAY 2021**

*Thurs. May 6th | 9:00am - 12:00pm - Citizen Resource Center, Dallas*

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Registration Deadline: Thurs., April 29th - contact Pam Bryson @ 704.865.3291 or [pam.bryson@gastongov.com](mailto:pam.bryson@gastongov.com)

This year's theme is "Derby Day", so put on your hat and join us for some fun. All participants are required to follow COVID-19 guidelines, which includes social distancing and wearing a face covering. We have limited space for 25 members.

Note: Due to NC State COVID-19 guidelines, meals are not to be eaten inside the building during the event. The Executive Board decided not to include a meal since it would have to be eaten outside.

### **2021 GASTON COUNTY ECA SCHOLARSHIP**

*Submission Deadline: Thurs., May 20th*

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. Please share this information with anyone you know who can benefit! The Gaston County School system has the application on its website.

Attention Scholarship Committee: An in-person meeting needs to be held to discuss the next steps. Please contact Pam Bryson for more information and let her know of dates/times that work for you.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

*Thurs., May 20th | 10:00am - 11:30am - Lucile Tatum Center, Gastonia*

All board members are requested to attend this meeting - 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. *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.

### **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

## **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 4.27.21**

The following COVID-19 guidance is provided in accordance with North Carolina Governor's Office, 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.
2. Specialty interest groups can hold meetings and do personal projects inside the building.
3. All meetings are to be scheduled and require a staff member to be present.
4. Meetings are limited to 10 individuals or less, and social distancing is required.  
Note: No visitors permitted to attend these meetings at this time.
5. No food can be eaten, prepared or served inside the building.
6. The building is not available for rental use.
7. For further information: Pam Bryson, Lucile Tatum Center Director  
704.865.3291 or [pam.bryson@gastongov.com](mailto:pam.bryson@gastongov.com)

## **HOLIDAY CLOSING**

The building will be closed Monday, May 31st for the Memorial Holiday.

## **ECA WORKSHOPS & CLASSES COMING SOON**

We're excited to announce that the Program Committee is now able to schedule in-person classes. Keep in mind that all Building Policy Guidelines do apply for these workshops.

## **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, the newsletter is now being 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 notify Pam Bryson or Audrey Hunt.

The Martha Goebel Special Interest Group is our new call tree partner that will provide reminder calls to members each month for the monthly ECA meetings. Thank you Martha Goebel Special Interest Group.

## **UPCOMING SPECIALTY GROUP MEETING**

The **Martha Goebel Special Interest Group** will be meeting at 10:00am on Tuesday, May 4th at the Firestone Grill, Gastonia. All ECA members are cordially invited to attend.

## **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!

## **MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE...**

We're pleased to announce that beginning in June, our monthly meetings will be a "hybrid" of virtual and in-person. We'll be able to have up to 10 ECA members come to the Center, and our remaining membership can still participate by Zoom.

***If you want to register for attending June's meeting in-person, please contact Pam Bryson by June 1st.***

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

- June 3rd
- No meeting in July
- August 5th

## **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 (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

**We still need a President Elect for 2021.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

- Building Committee - Jean Caldwell, Peggy Dameron, Jane Falls, Sandy Hamrick, Pat Mantooth, Martha Spurrier, & Patti Wells
- 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

The 2021 Executive Board Meetings are scheduled for every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00am:

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**

- 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](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

For More Information

Phone: 704.922.2111 Website: [gaston.ces.ncsu.edu](http://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu)

NC Extension & Community Association 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)

Gaston County ECA Board Meeting Minutes - April 15, 2021 - 10 AM

Call to order at 10 AM by Audrey Hunt, President.

Attending: Audrey Hunt, Linda Minges, Patti Wells, Billie Taylor, Pam Myers, Dana Croston, Billie Taylor.

Dana Croston gave Treasurer's Report. She will check on \$ to Something Pumpkin so we can be put on the t-shirts for advertisement. Money was finally received from ON The Border fundraiser!!

There were discussions on:

Cookbook Project: Dana is going to review material and see if this will be cost effective to do as a fundraiser.

Pastry Lady Fundraiser (October). This is a good fundraiser project and will be discussed later on in the year.

Patti Wells reported that the Rada online sale is set up now on the ECA Website and you can share it on your own page.

The Board toured the project room (old ceramic room) to see how it can be utilized. It was suggested that we paint the shelves to brighten up the room. Linda Minges said we would have to do it, county will not. (any volunteers?). Also Linda Minges said a grant had been submitted to buy video equipment so videos can be made showing different classes, projects, etc. A corner in the kitchen has been set aside to paint a Muriel where videos will be made.

Achievement Day: Sandy Hamrick will not be able to present the Member of the Year award due to work scheduling. Someone else will need to do this. Also response is slow, not many people signed up yet. The calling team will call membership to see how many people are coming so we can prepare. Patti Wells will order mugs for gift bags. Each Board Member will bring 5 copies of a cookie recipe for bags. Drop off the recipes by April 26th to Lucille Tatum Center. Pam Myers will get gifts for Leader and Member Of The Year. Linda Minges suggested pottery from Master Gardner at Akers Pharmacy. Please remember that names will need to be added to the plaque along with others.

Cultural Arts: Cultural Arts on District and State Levels will be one virtual. It was discussed whether or not we would do this. Everyone agreed we should so we can recognize our members' work this year in a trying time. They wanted to do a People's Choice award in each category. We agreed there should only be one People's Choice award.

Audrey discussed the General Meeting being held in Dallas at CRC Aug. - Nov., 2021. It will have to be when dates are available and possibly in the afternoon. It was suggested that we try it in Aug. to see how attendance is and if it is not good, we will continue to meet via ZOOM.

It was also suggested that the Calling Team when calling about Achievement Day ask members how many are submitting something into Cultural Arts and what. This will give us an idea of how many people to expect on viewing day.

Next Board Meeting May 20, 2021.