

The EEA Connection

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Happy New Year!

January 24, 2014

Now that 2014 has arrived, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to come out and participate in the trainings offered throughout the year. The programs this year have been created especially for your enjoyment. They are intended to challenge you, inform you and expand your horizons. The Program Committee always keeps you in mind when planning and your participation would be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend and share the experience. Let's make this year an unforgettable one! I look forward to experiencing life with each of you!

Michelle

District Spring EEA Meeting

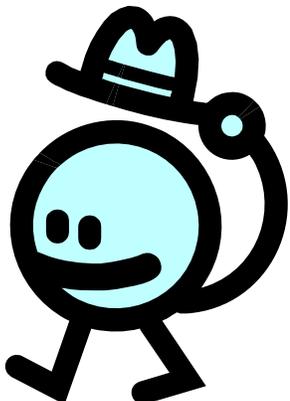
District 11 Extension Education Association Spring Conference will be held in Hallettsville, Texas on April 11, 2014. Look for more details coming in the future.

Baked Potato Luncheon is Around the Corner.....

The Baked Potato Fundraiser is scheduled for Monday, March 3rd from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. We are counting on as many as can to sell tickets. Please contact your club president for tickets. We will be

asking each club to donate a specific amount of cookies. Club Presidents, please contact Judy Schultz for this information. Brownies or bar type cookies are acceptable. Place two cookies in a zip lock bag

prior to bringing them to the Extension Office. Also each club is asked to donate two deep dish pies. The pies need to be 8" and on a disposable pie plate (all pie plates are non-returnable).



County EEA Cultural Arts Contest

February 3rd is the date for the County EEA Cultural Arts Contest. Entries must arrive at the Methodist Activity Center before 10:45 a.m. because judging will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.! A list of the entry cate-

gories is included in this newsletter. A copy of the entry form is also enclosed. Please attach a copy to every item you enter. Don't worry about the signature, Joan will sign the entries advancing to district competition.

See attachment for all rules. First and second place entries will be announced following the meal. First and second place entries will advance to the District Cultural Arts Contest in April.



Spring Car Trip

Antique Rose Emporium and Bluebonnet House Information coming soon. We will keep you posted.

**Save the date
April 8, 2014**

Cuisine From Around the World

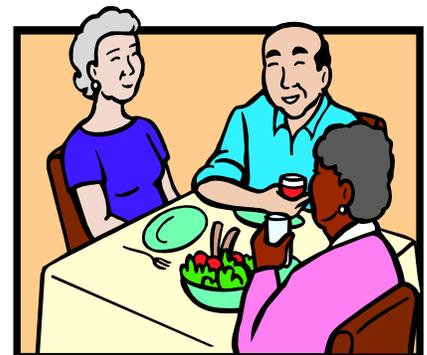


Thanks to all who came out to participate on January 16th. We had a fantastic time and several visitors. The food was delicious and the displays were innovative and creative. Hat's off to all of the clubs for doing such an outstanding job with the event.

Commissioners Luncheon

EEA's annual Commissioner's Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014 at Methodist Activity Center in Bellville at noon. This is your day to share the wonderful things you do so well in your

community. In addition, all clubs are asked to bring a pot of soup, a loaf of sandwiches, and a dessert. We look forward to having a great day and we hope that as many as can will join us.





Coupon-Clipping Myths That Cost You Money

- 1. Myth: 25- and 50-cent Coupons Aren't Worth It:** Reality:- Maybe not on their own, but if you buy an item on sale from a store that doubles coupons, you could turn a 25-cent coupon into a dollar or more of savings. And there are fewer of those bitty coupons out there than you think.
- 2. Myth: Collecting and Sorting Coupons Is Too Time-Consuming:** Reality - True, reaping the savings does take some effort. But one survey showed that people who spend 10 minutes or less per week clipping coupons save an average of \$7 off their weekly grocery bill. That's like earning \$42 per hour.
- 3. Myth: Joining an E-mail List Means Spam:** Reality - Not always. Read the privacy policy when you sign up. Be wary of sites that say they'll share your data with "affiliates" or "partners." Most sites allow you to opt out of having your information shared; in most cases, you simply uncheck a box before signing up. If no opt-out exists, think twice about handing over your e-mail address.
- 4. Myth: Downloaded Programs and Online Coupons Contain Spyware:** Reality:-The coupon printing programs used by most major sites, including Coupons.com, SmartSource.com and RedPlum.com, don't contain spyware, which can record your keystrokes to find out your passwords. But these programs do restrict how many coupons you can print (the limit is usually two).
- 5. Myth: Coupons Are Mostly for Processed, Packaged Foods:** Reality: If processed foods aren't your thing, you can still find coupons for items such as eggs, cheese, and organic food. And everyone needs paper products and health and beauty aids, for which coupons are plentiful.
- 6. Myth: Coupons Promote Overbuying:** Reality - While many coupons may read "40¢ off 6 Yogurts", you're still saving on each individual item. But if you don't want to get tied into buying multiple products just to save a nickel or dime, just scan over those deals. When you're browsing our printable coupons, the vast majority of coupons are for one product instead of buying several.
- 7. Myth: There Aren't Coupons For the Brands I Like:** Reality: If you do a little searching, you can find coupons for just about everything. But if you find a coupon for a brand of, say, salad dressing you don't normally buy, why would you turn down the chance to try it at a lower price? Switching brands to save money is a great saving strategy, and you may find that you like the coupon-clipping brand more!

Source: AllYou.com



Preserving Your Nest Egg

Preserving Your Nest Egg has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. This will be a countywide meeting and open to the public. Your participation will make this meeting 100% effective and 100% productive.

EEA Council Meeting



The next E.E. Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2pm at the Extension Office. Each club member is welcome to attend and each club is entitled to cast 3 votes on any issues requiring a vote or election.

Easter Cultural Arts Project in March!

This past summer the Program Committee decided to host an Easter's Cultural Arts project for all members. Details are included in a separate flyer in this newsletter. It has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th at the County Extension Office. All participants must RSVP and pre-pay prior to the event. Hope you can make it.

West End TEEA
Tasters' Luncheon
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014
Industry Firemen's Hall
Serving 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tickets:
Adults - \$10.00 — Children 6-12 - \$4.00



*Home cooking at its finest!
 Cooked by your friends and neighbors!*



Drawing for Texas Wildflower Quilt and other raffle items after lunch



Silent Auction

YOU SHOULDN'T GO AWAY HUNGRY!

Recipe Corner

Italian Cheese Bread

By Pam O'Brian

Loaf of French bread

4 cups mozzarella cheese (shredded)

8 oz whipped butter

1 - 2 stalks green onion, chopped

Slice bread into two halves. Mix cheese, butter and green onion together. Spread on bread equally and bake until melted. After it melts, place oven on broil until you get a little browning on top.

Prepare for Taxes in 4 Weeks

WEEK 1

Look over last year's return.

Examining your previous return will help you recall what paperwork you need. If your return is missing, call the IRS (800-829-1040) and request a free transcript. It should be easy to retrieve if you used a tax preparer, attorney or software.

Make an appointment.

If you'll need a tax preparer, arrange to meet in two weeks to give yourself time to get organized. If you're doing the return on your own, schedule time to work on it and note it on your calendar.



WEEK 2

Gather 2013 paperwork.

Go to organizit.hrblock.com to create a personalized checklist of the documents you need for your return. Check off the items as you locate them or receive them in the mail. You should have received everything by mid-February, but if you're missing a form, such as a W-2, contact your employer to request a copy. If you plan to file a paper return, pick up copies of IRS forms at your post office or library or download them at www.irs.gov. Purchase any software you need to file your taxes.

Find your receipts.

If you plan to itemize, review last year's return, your 2013 calendar and past credit card bills to jog your memory about possible deductions. Did you give to charity or take out a loan? If you're missing receipts, ask the groups or businesses to send them to you. Then organize the receipts by category and create an envelope for each: charity, medical expenses, etc.

WEEK 3

Crunch the numbers.

With your papers organized, the hard part is done. Meet with your tax preparer or sit down at your computer or desk to input the information.

Mail off your return.

Check for common filing mistakes, then seal the envelope or click the send button.

WEEK 4

Organize after you file.

Store tax forms, receipts and a copy of your return in a safe place. Buy a file or accordion folder and label a section for each month's receipts and important paperwork. Hold on to everything for 6 to 10 years.

Source: AllYou.com



Dollars “4” Scholars

All clubs are asked to start bringing in their Dollars 4 Scholars contributions to the County Extension Office. Funds will be given to the District representatives in March at the Spring Conference. Dollars for Scholars are collected statewide and these funds are used on special projects at the State 4-H Center in Brownwood. All money is appreciated and used wisely.



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Upcoming Opportunities

Necessary Documents

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: County Extension Office

Family, Fun and Games Day Planning Meeting

Date: Thurs, May. 22, 2014
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: County Extension Office

Evelyn’s Care and Concern Corner

WE’RE ON THE WEB!!
AUSTIN.AGRILIFE.ORG

Members, please remember Evelyn when it comes to information pertaining to the members. Any news is welcomed. All news will be communicated to those on her committee. The following persons has been reported at this time to her so please keep them in your prayers.

Mary Lou Craig

Gladys Frank (Herbert)

Sheilia Howard

Debra Kollman (Debra’s Mother in Law - Ora Dell Kollman)

Myrtle Winkelmann Family