

KANSAS FCE NEWS

WINTER
2025
vol. 59
no. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF The Kansas Association for Family and Community Education



PRESIDENT FAYE SPENCER

Important headlines and activities since June:

National FCE and ACWW USA Area Conference – Held July 21 – 25 in Erlanger, KY. My, was this an eye opener!!!! I am still in awe of the societies that all work for the betterment of women and families of the United States and the world.

National FCE presented lessons: Family Community Leadership (FCL) “3-2-1 Contact! Your Officials” and “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence” and the Hearth Fire Series: # 82 “Pollinators! They’re not Just Bees” and # 83 “Whole Grains! Nutrient-Dense Food for a Healthier Diet!”

ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) USA Societies and Umbrella Societies presented such topics as Horticulture Therapy, Increasing Membership, Student Conservation Association, Wreaths Across America, and Environmental Wellness.

Guest speakers: ACWW World President Magdie de Kock (South Africa), Tish Collins, ACWW’s World Headquarters, London, ACWW USA President Bonnie Teeples, National FCE President Judy Fullmer, ION Women’s Shelter and entertainment by Anne Shelby telling of “Aunt Molly’s Story”.

A short list of ACWW’s societies: Country Women’s Council (CWC); National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.; Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council; Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (small world, this person has met my cousin who is a Macon County President of IAHCE); Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association and more.

2025 State Conference – There were 74 FCE members and 8 guests attending the “Let’s Get the Heck Into Dodge” Annual Conference and Business Meeting. Elected as state secretary is Cindy Kiser who will serve a three year term, 2026-2028. The proposed 2026 budget was approved.

NE Area Director Diane Nielson and 2026 State Conference Co-Chairs, Anita Felzke and Lynne Cathey, invited everyone to be “Soaring to New Heights With FCE” for the October 6-8, 2026, conference in Atchison. Holiday Inn Express will serve as the conference hotel.

Another important Annual Business Meeting item was the passage of the amendment to the Bylaw ARTICLE I – NAME.

The name of the organization shall be Kansas Association for Family Community Education, hereinafter referred to as Kansas FCE. Kansas FCE is an affiliate of the National Association for Family and Community Education, Hereinafter referred to as National FCE.

I have been able to attend Area Council Fall Meetings and Workshops of South Central and Southeast. Both presented the 2026 education program lessons. All the lessons are wonderfully prepared and presented.

Thank you to all who volunteer in FCE.

Kansas FCE Vice President Report

DeLores Walden, Kansas FCE Vice President

By the time you read this, your county presidents will have the 2026 FCE and K-State lessons and forms. The State EPC members and I hope you enjoy next year's lessons. We enjoyed writing them and presenting them to the Area EPC members and Area Directors at training.

The State EPC members and I are already working on 2027 lessons. If you have ideas for lessons you would like to see, let me know.

I was elected as the National FCE Secretary at the National FCE Conference in July, 2025, for a 2 year term. Already have done two Zoom meetings. It is a privilege to represent Kansas FCE Members on the National FCE board.

Ruth Shafer, Montgomery County, will be going off the State EPC. Thank you, Ruth, for a job well done. Linda Hess, McPherson County, will be coming onto the State EPC. Next year, I will be looking for a member who would like to serve on this committee (2027-2029). Writing a lesson is not mandatory, but we would like you to be able to write one. You will have help with that part of your job.

Enjoy the 2026 lessons and have a Great 2026.

“Spread love everywhere you go” (Mother Teresa)

Out Going State Secretary—Tina Bailey

This is the end of my term as State Secretary. It was an interesting gig. I learned about FCE and its members while I was on the executive committee. I enjoyed meeting with new members and reconnecting with old members. Thank you for voting for me three years for this experience. I will see you around the state.

Treasurer, Membership, Registrar, Editor, and Website-Marcy Price

Thank you to all of you who have sent their dues promptly. I received several at the State Conference in Dodge City. This gave me a head start on entering data in a spreadsheet to be sent to National FCE headquarters.

Most Members filled out their membership forms with due diligence. However, others had missing information such as birth dates, date joined, emails, middle initials, and phone numbers. One county's forms lacked the members' signatures; thus they had to be returned to them.

I know it seems ridiculous that we fill out the same information year after year, but I need to know if this information has changed. When I am typing the information into a spreadsheet, I get the information straight off the membership form you sent. The original member's form is sent to the National FCE Headquarters. If the information is not there, then I must find out the information by going to a previous spreadsheet. Granted, I can do that. But when I send the forms to National, that means they are incomplete and could be sent back, causing extra cost to both National FCE and Kansas FCE.

The auditors, and in turn the IRS, will question how Membership dues can sustain our organization. Proving the source of our funds since September 11, 2001 has been a key issue. We need to validate every member with a signed form for the proper year. Not all our 2025 members renewed their membership for 2026. The final numbers are not in yet, but it looks like we have lost many members. FCE Units are reporting that some of our members chose not to renew.

Continued

I have received contributions from counties, and I appreciate your generosity.

There is still time to donate if you have not sent them in. Those will all be passed on to the respective charities at the end of the year. Kansas FCE has many projects to support, including Kansas FCE Scholarship Program, Joann Newby Scholarship Program, as well as many National FCE Projects.

Additionally, we provide financial support to various ACWW initiatives. Your donation can make a difference to the impact we make globally. From local projects and activities to international efforts to safeguard the rights of rural women, your support is vital. The Pennies for Friendship project has been renamed by ACWW as the Rural Women in Action Project.

Our members have donated to these programs for many years. The donations we collect every year go to fund-needed projects. Such as;

Smurthwaite is an all-female hall that houses approximately forty-five women on the east side of the K-State campus. Smurthwaite residents must participate in leadership programming and maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Clovio House -A long title is Alpha of Clovia 4-H Cooperative Leadership House. Officially the chapter is Alpha of Clovia Inc as a business entity as we are the Alpha chapter as the first Clovia. There is a Beta chapter at the University of Minnesota and others over the years but are no longer in existence. Our founding members in 1931 had the common thread of being former 4-H members and that has historically been our continued ties and those 4-H principles are what the Clovia principles are based on. Our house at 1200 Pioneer Ln. was originally a project of the Kansas 4-H Foundation and they served as our landlords until Spring 2024 when the Clovia Alumnae Association was able to negotiate a purchase of the house from the Foundation.

CHARACTER COUNTS! ® High School Age Essay Contest – this is a new project for Kansas FCE. We will be offering a \$100 award to the winning High School Student who wins the Essay contest. This has been budgeted as a \$100 award.

Kansas FCE also hosts the fourth-grade CHARACTER COUNTS! ® Essay and Artwork Contest. Even though it is not currently on the membership form, you can donate to this worthy project. Price Repair of Leoti donated \$100 for the CHARACTER COUNTS! ® Winner. Smith County has offered to donate to the next year's winner (2026), and Gray County has offered to donate to the year after that (2027). I am so excited about these donations. The winner this year is Forrest McKinney, from Leoti, Kansas, who won third place at the National FCE level.

The Standard of Excellence form (pink paper) is Due by December 1 from the FCE Units to County FCE Council President. Due by January 1 to State Registrar Marcy Price, 11427 103 Road, Ensign, KS 67841. You still have time to get them to me. I have received two. Please save a copy for your records.

Many have asked about the Group Recognition Form and the Membership Recognition Form. We had done away with it for a time, but since so many have asked about it, I have updated it and put it on the website. Feel free to download it from the website and send it to me with the correct information as you know it.

The 2026 Lessons and Forms will be published on the website as they become available. I have placed several pictures of the 2025 State Conference on the website and on the Facebook page.

Northwest Area—Edith McClain

Council Meeting and Fall Workshop was held on Wednesday, October 22nd in the 4-H Building at the Russell County Fair Grounds. Registration began at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and breads. Area Director Edith McClain called the business meeting to order at 10:00 with a poem “So Much to be Thankful for”, followed by the Flag salute. Nadine Holmes, Smith County, was appointed Secretary for the meeting. Roll call was answered by 17 ladies from all 5 NW Area Counties.

Nadine and Edith gave a report on the Kansas FCE Conference held Oct. 9-11 in Dodge City. The 2026 State Conference will be October 6-8 in Atchison.

Earlene Ganoung, Rooks County, was congratulated for being the 2025 State Heart of FCE Winner. The other state awards presented during conference were distributed to those who were not at Conference.

Discussion about the August Tool Box was held. This included all the reports and information for 2026.

Nominations for a three year term of 2026-2028 NW Area Director was requested. Mona Grady, Russell County, stepped up and agreed to take the position. A BIG Thank you to Mona. Edith and Mona will meet soon to share all the area information and the bank account funds

As no Heart of FCE nominations were presented, Mona and Edith will select a nominee.

The NW Area Nominating Committee Chair will be Edith and Janie Lowry as alternate.

A Raffle basket was available to assist with the NW Area bank account. It was won by Edith. The Russell ladies served a delicious lunch.

Following lunch, the 2026 Packets were distributed to each County.

The Educational Program Committee: Janie Lowry, Susan Gartrell (absent), Pat Keas, Nadine and Edith presented a preview of the 2026 lessons. Also, a guest presenter, Brian Nelson of Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (KDADS) presented the “*Know When the Game is Playing You*” lesson. Each lady attending received a bag with recipes and ingredients for simmering pots. The table decorations were pumpkins with sprigs of herbs in them. Each lady received a pumpkin.

The 2026 Spring Council and Recognition Day will be in Rooks County. Date to be announced later. Edith ended the day with a poem “4 Candles”.

A Big Thank you to Russell for a great day! And all the ladies attending and supporting Edith over the last few years.

Southcentral Area—Kathy Preheim

The SC Area Fall Council meeting was held at West Zion Mennonite Church in Moundridge on Tuesday, October 21 at 10:00. Kettle Queens FCE Unit, McPherson County, was in charge of registration and serving the luncheon. The Evening Belles FCE Unit, Saline County, served delicious breakfast snacks before the business meeting. The business meeting was held with Margaret Brewer, Modern Mrs. FCE Unit, Harvey County, being elected to represent the South Central Area for the 2026 State Nominating Committee. Marlene Faul, Modern Mrs. FCE Unit, Harvey County, was elected as an alternate. Updates on National FCE and various committees were given. A slide show was shown that highlighted the 2025 state conference held in Dodge City. The area members were informed of the passing of Kimberly Krase of Canton Dizzy Dames FCE Unit, McPherson County, and Nancy Kernick, former Kansas FCE State President. A reminder about deadlines for 2025 forms was given. An update was given on the 2027 state conference that the South Central Area will be planning. Members were encouraged to sign up to receive information about the 2026 state conference to be held in Atchison. After lunch members were given a preview of the 2026 lessons by the SC Area EPC members, Melinda Jantz, Adele Koehn, and Bonnie Kaufman. They then heard from Timothy White, Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (KDADS), who gave a lesson about gambling addiction. He informed the group that he was willing to come to their home communities, individual or county meetings to give the “*Know When the Game is Playing You*” lesson again.

The SC Area Spring Council meeting will be held on TUESDAY, April 14, 2026.

Southeast Area—Mary Dunn

We had seven members attend the 2025 State FCE Conference in Dodge City Oct 9-11. Some highlights of the trip were the bus tour of the Dodge City area, hearing Miss Kitty speak, learning about crime-solving techniques, and having Cindy Kiser, Rock N' Roll FCE, Neosho County, elected as State Secretary for a three year term, 2026-2028.

On October 27, the Southwind Extension Fall Follies was held with Bourbon County ladies as hostesses at the Southern Baptist Church in Fort Scott. The theme of the Follies was *The Heart of Christmas: Our Traditions*. An original slide show was presented by Lori Nelsen about the historical traditions of Christmas from Old Saint Nicholas to his evolvement into Santa Claus of today. We learned new package wrapping techniques from Karen Peery and heard the story of *A Cup of Christmas Tea* by Joyce Davenport. Twenty-five (25) ladies were in attendance, 17 from Bourbon County, 3 from Neosho County, and 4 from Allen County, and 1 KSU Extension Agent, Sandy Haggard. Sandy provided the group with dates of upcoming extension programs on Food Preservation and Pie Baking. The very festive evening menu included 4 soups, Cranberry Apple Cider Tea, Deluxe Mini Dessert Cups, and Holiday Peppermint White Chocolate Mousse. This gala evening put everyone into the Christmas spirit.

November 6, the SE Area Council Meeting and Education Day was held in Parsons, KS, at the K-State Southeast Extension Center with 21 members and 5 guests in attendance. Guests included State President Faye Spencer via Zoom, State Treasurer Marcy Price, K-State FCE Advisor Christina Holmes, and K-State Extension FACS Agent Sandy Haggard, Southwind. National FCE Public Policy Coordinator Sharon Giacometti (Sliferette FCE, Crawford County) gave a report about both National meeting and the State meeting. State EPC members Lois Carlson, Rock N' Roll FCE Unit, Neosho County, and Ruth Shafer, Drum Creek FCE Unit, Montgomery County, were in attendance. State Marketing Committee member Jennine Marrone, Renaissance FCE Unit, Crawford County was present and managed the FCE Marketing Table. SE State Nominating Committee member Carol Stephens, Rock n' Roll FCE Unit, Neosho County, and alternate Ruth Shafer, were reelected as committee member and alternate for 2026. Laura Hoppes, Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (KDADS) gave the training on the 2026 lesson "*Know When the Game Is Playing You!*" KADADS will be presenting this lesson training in person in all 5 areas of the state. Copies of the FCE Scholarship applications were given to each county with the request that they be distributed to all local high schools.

2026 Southwind Extension Spring Fling for Allen, Bourbon, and Neosho Counties, will be held April 13 at 6:30 at the Humboldt United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. A salad supper is planned, followed by a tour of the fabulous new White Tail Deer Museum.

2026 SE Area Spring Council Meeting and Recognition Day will be held on May 7 at 9:00 am at the Crawford County Historical Museum, 651 S Highway 69, Pittsburg, KS, 66762, with Crawford County Ladies as hostesses.

2026 SE Area Fall Council Meeting and Education Day is planned for November 5 at 9:00 am at the K-State Southeast Extension Center, 25092 N 32nd St, Parsons, KS, 67367.

American Income Life Insurance - Dee Hettinger – 316-516-1788 – dhettinger@ailife.com

Kansas FCE pays an annual premium that will insure all members with an Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy. This year, AIL sent out a mailing. It contains a colored card members could return to AIL for the purpose of receiving their coverage certificate, designate a beneficiary, receive free Child Safe Kits, and opportunities to take advantage of other discounted services. Each Kansas FCE Member may choose whether or not to return the card (or go online) to register their beneficiary.

Even if a member should not to return the card, they still are insured.

Northeast Area—Diane Nielson

Northeast Kansas FCE members gathered for a day of learning, fellowship and planning on November 6. The day's agenda included previews of 2026 lessons presented by Educational Program Committee members, Margaret Barnes, Carol Linter and Tina Bailey. Members of the public were invited to attend the training sessions. Bryan Nelson, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services representative, presented a general session on problem gambling titled *Know When the Game is Playing You*. This educational partnership will continue as Nelson plans presentations across northeast Kansas. Kansas FCE Vice President Delores Waldren gave a brief overview of FCE reporting guidelines.

Following a brief business meeting, members completed the day's agenda by planning for the 2026 Kansas FCE Conference. Amelia Earhart made a guest appearance courtesy of Doniphan County FCE Unit members to encourage attendance at the October 6-8, 2026 Conference in Atchison, KS. Pre-conference tours will focus on historical sites, spirited tours, shopping and more. County Council representatives reported on conference committee assignments. A follow up planning session is scheduled in early 2026 to finalize conference plans. Jackson County FCE members provided lunch.

Amelia and FCE friends extended a 2026 conference invitation at the Kansas FCE State Conference held in Dodge City. A display board was also set up to share information about the conference host site, Atchison.

Southwest – Connie Chavez

Several Southwest Kansas FCE units displayed lessons or participated in their local County Fairs this summer.

In October, twenty-nine Southwest Area FCE members and guests attended the 2025 Kansas FCE State Conference held in Dodge City, on Oct. 9 – 11, 2025. Several area members served as hostesses and assisted with programs, making our state conference a success! I look forward to attending the 2026 Kansas FCE Conference next October in Atchison, Kansas and encourage everyone to attend!

The Southwest Area FCE Fall Workshop was held on Oct. 27, 2025, at the Wichita County Community Building in Leoti. The Wichita County Prairie Pals FCE Unit hosted this event with 20 women in attendance from seven (7) units. We welcomed Kansas FCE Treasurer Marcy Price, Kansas FCE Marketing Director Dorene Reimer and past National FCE President Judy Fulmer to the meeting. During this meeting,

I reviewed the 2025 FCE forms that must be completed and returned to me before Jan. 1, 2026. SW Area EPC Chair Ann Adams also offered tips for completing forms that will be mailed to her.

Doreen Reimer, Wichita County, was elected to serve on the State Nominating Committee and Connie Yost, Gray County, was elected to serve as the alternate.

The SW Area 2026 Heart of FCE nominee is Judy Fullmer, Lane County.

The SW Area FCE Spring Recognition meeting will be hosted by both Rush County units on April 23, 2026, at the Rush Center Community Center.

SW EPC members Ann Adams, Lisa Burdett and I reviewed the 2026 FCE lessons with members throughout the day. Guest speaker, Timothy White, Jr., from the Kansas Department of Health and Disability, shared the lesson on "Gambling".

The 2026 FCE lesson packets were distributed at the end of the meeting and each attendee picked out a miniature fabric "pumpkin" to take home as a parting gift.

Soaring to New Heights With FCE Theme of 2026 State Conference

Northeast Kansas FCE members have high flying plans for 2026 Conference in Atchison, KS. Conference dates will be October 6-8 (Tuesday to Thursday).

The conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express. New for this conference - attendees will **NOT** need to make separate hotel reservations. Hotel room reservations with roommate plans will be part of the FCE conference registration. Members will simply present their form of payment during the check-in process. Watch for further details.

Conference events include an evening at the Amelia Earhart Hanger Museum, optional Atchison History tours, a spirited haunted tour for the brave and opportunities to visit Amelia Earhart related sites. Additional tour opportunities, make-a-take sessions, shopping and FCE scavenger hunts are planned. Other conference plans include inspirational workshops, FCE networking and informative speakers. Plans include celebrating the 250th birthday of our nation; Lewis and Clark celebrated the first 4th of July west of the Mississippi here in 1804.

In 1936, 90 years ago our national FCE organization was chartered. Did you know Kansas FCE roots began in neighboring Leavenworth County in 1914? This early quest for education would help spark a national movement. Meanwhile, Atchison's hometown girl, Amelia Earhart, would catch the world's attention as a pilot in the 1920's and 30's.

A century later, Atchison continues to celebrate. There are many reasons to celebrate in 2026, make plans to come to Atchison for the Kansas FCE Conference October 6-8 for an FCE adventure of a lifetime! Plan to join us **Soaring To New Heights With FCE!**

The following was a part of the 2025 KAFCE Conference in Dodge City. Attendees were asked questions to gain their perspective. Other questions and answers will be published in future issues of the Kansas FCE News.

3. How do we develop community service projects?

Appoint a committee to research and present ideas to the unit.

Preview lessons looking for accomplishment projects—schedule those lessons early in the year to allow time to develop ideas, secure funds, carry out the project.

Choose a lesson to develop as a public meeting.

Contact local officials (city, county, school, youth groups, clubs) for ideas—do they need support in their projects? Would they like to partner with us on our projects?

Check the local food pantry, health department, senior citizen centers for their needs.

Contact schools regarding their extracurricular activities, or reading activities for children.

Offer Friday evening babysitting for young couples to have a date night (host at a church basement, YMCA, or a day care facility for a safe, neutral environment) with games and activities for the kids (2-hour limit recommended).

Projects may involve areas outside our counties.

Look for areas that could use some beautification.

73rd Annual Kansas FCE State Conference held in Dodge City, Kansas

The Southwest Area hosted the 73rd Annual Kansas FCE Conference in Dodge City, Kansas, Oct. 9 to 11, 2025. Some 80 members and guests made their way to western Kansas to “Get the Heck INTO Dodge in ’25!” The conference was held in the historic Guymon Petro Building.

Thursday activities included attending a watercolor class conducted by the 2nd Ave. Art Guild; a private tasting tour of “spirits” at Boot Hill Distillery, and a kick-off party that featured a B-B-Q food wagon on the patio and music performed by John and Connie Chavez.

On Friday, members stood in line to board the Big Blue Trolley and take in the sites around town! The tour guide described why Dodge City became known as the “Queen of Cowtowns”! There was also a talk that featured the Harvey Girls, those proper young ladies who worked as wait staff in the Depot’s dining room, as well as a tour of The Depot Theater.

A Color Guard presented the colors, and the national anthem was performed preceding the opening of the FCE Annual Business Meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, members participated in roundtable discussions organized and conducted by Southwest Area EPC Chair Ann Adams from Rush County’s Sunshine FCE Unit.

Members attended the FCE State Awards Banquet on Friday evening. Chris Haselhorst, AKA “Miss Kitty”, shared her life’s story with the group. The Pawnee County Sunflower Homemakers FCE Unit made Western-themed centerpieces by adding a colorful bandana and a silk flower to child-sized cowboy boots. The centerpieces were presented as favors after the Saturday luncheon. State FCE Marketing provided banquet table favors.

On Saturday, Southwest Area Director Connie Chavez shared a letter written by her grandmother in 1909. The letter acknowledged the pros and cons of accepting a marriage proposal from a suitor, who later became Connie’s grandfather. She encouraged members to take time to write down their special “stories” to share with their loved ones.

The Installation of Kansas FCE Officers meeting was held on Saturday morning. Southwest Area EPC Chair Ann Adams shared the results of the roundtable discussions with the group before the luncheon meal. Pawnee County Sunflower Homemakers FCE Unit member, Lisa Burdett, a retired KBI Crime Scene Investigator, was the luncheon speaker. The Hodgeman County Homemakers FCE Unit provided ribbon-tied red bandana paper cups filled with chocolates as the table favor for the luncheon.

Southwest Area Director Connie Chavez organized the 2025 conference and appreciates everyone who helped make it a success! A special thank-you goes to the Ford County Extension Office for their assistance and to Ford County Stitch ‘n Chat FCE Unit member Shirley Trabert who organized 35 FCE gift baskets. She and her volunteers sold \$879 worth of “Prizes by the Yard” tickets which supports the Kansas State FCE Scholarship fund.

National FCE - Judy Fullmer

The office of the National FCE Headquarters is closed. Judy Jones has been retained as a remote secretary with work hours of 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ET only on the days of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. New mailing address is PO Box 642, Florence, KY 41022-0642; Email: nafcehq@fuse.net; Phone: 859-525-6401; This change has saved some money on the cost of insurance and rent for a physical location. Bonnie is still ACWW Area President. Judy Fullmer is going to the Triannual in April, 2026 in Ontario. National FCE may start a Zoom meeting.

During the 2025 National FCE Annual Business Meeting, elections were held. Those elected were Bonnie Teeple, Oregon, president; DeLores Walden, Kansas, two year term of secretary; Sandra Bolyar, Oregon, treasurer and Connie Larrington, Nebraska, Vice President for Programs, replacing Peggy Martens, Kansas.

Peggy Martens: I am not officially on the National FCE Board. Connie Larrington was elected to replace me. I am, however, serving on the Bylaws Committee. The National FCE Conference in 2026 will be in Erlanger, KY. First Timer Scholarships will be offered by the Alumni Association.

Sharon Giacometti: It is important to go to the National FCE Conference to support the organization. I attended, at National FCE Conference, the entertainment show of "Aunt Molly's Story", about a woman in the early coal mines. Sharon reviewed the "Pollinators" lesson and the "16 Day Activism Against Gender-based Violence", November 25 to December 10.

Dorene Reimer: The Legacy Fund was established in 2014, to help National FCE financially when it is needed. This money has been donated by members and can be donated at any time. After you have donated \$5,000.00, you are in the 400 Club.

The State Nominating Committee Chair Sharon Giacometti

Kansas FCE will need to elect two positions at the 2026 State Annual Business Meeting, Atchison.

President-elect shall serve a one-year term (2027) followed by a three-year term (2028-2030) as President. The President-elect will fulfill duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

Vice President shall serve a three-year term (2027-2029). The Vice President will serve as the chairman of the Education Program Committee (EPC); will submit news articles and report any National FCE awards to the Kansas FCE NEWS editor for publication; make all changes in forms and have all lessons printed for the upcoming year; coordinate and send all correspondence about Leadership Training to Area Directors and Area EPC; send letters to Educational Program Award winners and present certificates at State Conference; fulfill other duties as may be assigned by State President or Board of Directors; and provide for the incoming Vice-President all document and supplies pertinent to the office.

If any FCE member knows of a candidate, please contact the 2026 State Nominating Committee Chair Ruth Shafer 1262 CR 1700, Caney, 67333; C: 620-688-1101; royshafer@gmail.com).

Kansas FCE 2026 Educational Program Lessons:
FCE... Growing Through Knowledge

“The Facts About Dates on Food Products” written by Ruth Shafer, Kansas FCE State EPC. Educational Goals: An understanding of where food dates come from and their purpose. An understanding of truth, myths, and a misunderstanding of food dates. Signs of food spoilage. Lesson Description: A "Date Quiz" is included with the lesson. Where did "Date Labels" come from? Is labeling baby formula special? There are three different labeling that is on the food we buy. Hearth Fire #4 – “Buying Safe Food” will accompany the lesson.

“Pumpkins??Yes, Please!!” written by Susan Gartell, Kansas FCE State EPC, Educational Goals: To learn about the species of pumpkins and squash in the Cucurbit vine family. To discuss the many ways pumpkins can be used to enhance our lifestyles. To incorporate the nutritional powerhouse of pumpkins into our diets year-round, Hearth Fire Series # 68-“Someone's in the Home...Eating Healthy Food”. Lesson Description: “Tempting My Taste Buds.” The history of pumpkins dates back thousands of years and is native to the Western Hemisphere. Pumpkins are produced in all fifty states, with Illinois leading the way. Learn about the varieties and how to use them.

“CHARACTER COUNTS!® Respect” written by DeLores Walden, Kansas FCE Vice President, Educational Goals: Teach the younger generations the meaning of Respect. Encourage members to list items and decide if it is Respect or NOT. Lesson Description: The “Golden Rule” involves people treating each other with Respect. Respect can be used as a noun or a verb.

“A Journey through Kansas” written by DeLores Walden, Kansas FCE Vice President. Educational Goals: Learn about New Attractions and Individuals from the different Kansas Areas. Educate others about Kansas Attractions and Individuals. Lesson Description: Come on aboard and let's take a trip through Kansas. We will visit five (5) areas of Kansas. Each area will have Attractions and Individuals. There is also a list of future tours and or mini vacations.

“Know When the Game is Playing You” Coordinated by Lois Carlson, Kansas FCE EPC. Educational Goals: Become more aware of the gambling addiction problem in Kansas. Learn what makes people vulnerable to addiction. Learn what social status is most likely to develop an addiction. Become aware of some of the warning signs. Become aware of the treatment available. Lesson Description: Problem gambling is defined by repetitive gambling behavior despite harm and negative consequences. This disorder is frequently associated with social and family costs.

K-State Family Consumer Science Lessons:

“The Wellness of Kindness or the Kindness Effect”: written by Elaine Johannes, State Specialist, and Lisa Newman, Extension Agent. This lesson will examine the definition of kindness, the health benefits of kindness, as well as include activities to help others/ways to promote kindness. Examples include: volunteering, acts of kindness, and being kind to ourselves.

“Good Gut Health” written by Priscilla Brenes, State Specialist, and Chelsea Reinberg, Extension Agent. The health of the bacteria in your gut is often overlooked when it comes to good health. The health of your gut can affect your mental health, immune system, metabolic health, and chronic disease, and many other diseases or symptoms linked to poor health. Improving gut health starts with your diet. Consuming a diet high in fiber, pre-and probiotic foods, and less processed foods and sugar can help improve your gut health and, in turn, improve your overall health.

“Growing Through Stories: Early Literacy and Milestones” written by David Rehfeld, State Specialist; Monique Koerner, Extension Agent; and Lisa Newman, Extension Agent. This will be a discussion of books and literacy during the early developmental period from the prenatal period through infant and toddlerhood. This lesson will provide key concepts of how reading impacts all domains of development and how to incorporate those concepts into everyday learning. Hands-on activities that parents, grandparents, childcare providers, or any caregiver of your children can use to ignite excitement for books and lay the foundation for early literacy.

Atchison County FCE Members Raising Funds to Support Community Autism Awareness

Atchison County FCE members have extended their community Autism Awareness outreach by supporting efforts to launch an Autism Awareness community support group. Monthly meetings are held at the Atchison YMCA. Molly Franklin heads up education efforts. University of Kansas is supporting the community group by providing monthly speakers. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Autism in Northeast Kansas. Attendance is free.

To support the costs related to this ongoing educational effort; local FCE Unit members have pieced a quilt to raise funds. If you are interested in assisting this fundraising effort, contact Virginia Foley by text/phone at **913-370-2799**, email gavinsgranny@hotmail.com or by mail **PO Box 116, Lancaster, KS 66041**

**K-State FCE Representative Jessica Kootz**

An invitation has been extended to Kansas FCE members to attend the United Association Conference in Wichita. This conference is being held February, 2026 and may be attended by FAC Agents, FAC teachers, any retiree and members of Kansas FCE. She believes we would benefit from the information given at the meeting. Next, “Living Well Wednesday” is hosted by K-State Extension on the second Wednesday. Finally, their name has been updated to K-State Extension, dropping the word “Research”.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN of the WORLD (ACWW)

Bonnie Teeples, ACWW USA Area President, 541-891-2662; bdteeples@charter.net

Hello Kansas FCE members!

I am excited to bring you a bit of ACWW USA Area news!

For the past 3 years our area has been concentrating on Food Security and Food Waste.

The Food Security issue is something that I feel very strongly about. I see it all around me. And it is something I can do something about! As ACWW members it is our responsibility to act on the resolutions we as members pass at the Triennial World Conferences. There are a lot of resolutions that may not pertain to your area, but the two most recent ones on Food Security and Food Waste pertain to every country of the world. Food security at a global and individual level is impeded by multiple, long-term challenges which fluctuate over time and in a geographical region. These factors worsen existing intersecting inequalities, further reducing women's equitable access to food. Each of these critical factors show why we need genuine change in our systems and focus on more equitable control over food systems.

The last year of the Food Security three-year plan for our area is to focus on the critical factors that come into play for Food Security; **Climate Change; Energy Security; Conflict; and Water Security.**

In the USA, each of these factors affect each of us. We see all around us the effects of climate change and energy security, and we all know that having a lack of enough water is evident all over the USA. Sometimes we don't think that the world conflict affects us here but think about the fact that Russia and the Ukraine produce almost 40% of the world's wheat.

I appreciate that Kansas is talking about the dates on food products and working to reduce food waste and loss in that manner. Thank you for taking the food waste issue seriously. ("The Facts About Dates on Food Products" written by Ruth Shafer, Kansas FCE State EPC for the 2026 program year.)

I am excited about the ACWW Coordinator program and as a member society Kansas is encouraged to nominate a coordinator. The Coordinator meets with the Area President and other coordinators to get firsthand training on the work of ACWW and what we can do to further that work.

Thank you for all you do for women and families all over your state. Please know that it is appreciated at all levels.

I'll leave you with a quote from Jane Goodall, 'You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. **What you do makes a difference.** You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.'

2026 ROSTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

(25-27) Faye Spencer - SC - Saline
520 Gail Dr, Salina, 67401-7827
C-785-201-2143
spencerf.kafce@gmail.com

SECRETARY

(28) Cindy Kiser - SE - Neosho
220 N. Grant St, Erie, 66733
C: 620-423-1766
tkiser2@cox.net

VICE PRESIDENT

(25-26) DeLores Walden - NE - Shawnee
5720 SE Paulen Road, Berryton, 66409-9400
H: 785-379-0666; C: 785-215-4696
wintersdj1@cox.net

TREASURER

(Registrar/Historian; Membership List/Records)
(25-27) Marcy Price - SW - Ford
11427 103 Rd, Ensign, 67841-9304
C: 620-255-2001
thesewinglady@yahoo.com

Area Directors

Northeast: (26) Diane Nielson, (Atchison), 59275 Shelby Rd, Milan, MO 63556; C-913-488-5179;
diane.nielson@yahoo.com

Northwest: (28) Mona Grady, (Russell), PO Box 367, Russell, 67665-0367; 785-445-8421;
mymonia_20052002@yahoo.com

South Central: (27) Kathy Preheim, (McPherson), 2008 50th, Peabody, 66866; 620-386-0778;
kathypreheim@gmail.com

Southeast: (27) Mary Dunn, (Neosho), 2320 Florida Rd, Humboldt, 66748; H-620-473-3521;
C-620-433-1316; maryfdunn@yahoo.com

Southwest: (26) Connie Chavez, (Hodgeman), 725 Atkin St, Jetmore, 67854-9305; 303-718-3349;
chavez_17@msn.com

State Educational Program Committee

The member serves as State EPC Chair and receives the Accomplishment, Community Service Project and other reports the prior year listed before their name. State EPC Member's term ends December 31 the year listed before their name.

(26) Susan Gartrell (NW/Rooks), 415 6 Road, Stockton, 67669-8810; 785-689-4820; gartrell@ruraltel.net

(27) Lois Carlson, (SE/Neosha), 422 West Wilder St., Erie, 66733' C – 620-423-1004; jlcarlson14@cox.net

(28) Linda Hess, (SC/Marion), 1222 Nickerson St., Marion 66861; (620)-947-1627; lindalhess@hotmail.com

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KAFCE NEWS

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #669
Russell, KS 67665

Marcy Price
11427 103 Road
Ensign, KS. 67841

Postmaster:
Time Dated Material
Do Not Delay

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KANSAS FCE NEWS! Is printed Spring, Summer and Winter.

Submit all items or articles for the "KAFCE News" to Marcy Price, 11427 103 Rd. Ensign, KS 67841. or
to thesewinglady@yahoo.com.

Did you know Kansas FCE has a website? Check it out at www.kafce.org.

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

February, Executive Board Meeting in Salina
March, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
April 14, Southcentral Spring Meeting
April 23, Southwest Spring Meeting, Rush Center, Community Center
May 7, Southeast Spring Meeting
July 19, @ 6:30 pm Board Meeting
July 20-23, National FCE Conference, Erlanger, Kentucky
July 24, National FCE Board Meeting.
October 6-8, 2026 Annual Kansas FCE State Conference, Atchison, Kansas