

## HISTORY OF KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The first Home Demonstration Unit was created in 1914 when women from Leavenworth County requested help in food preservation from a national club leader. A mother – daughter canning club was formed in Glenwood, now one of the oldest Extension units in the country. From 1915 to 1943, the clubs were sponsored by the Farm Bureau and were called Farm Bureau Units. Toward the end of the 1920's, 47 counties reported 85 Farm Bureau Units with a total membership of 1,726.

The units were originally organized to help Kansas rural women achieve the standards of their city counterparts. They came together to have “lessons” taught by their County Home Demonstration Agent. Miss Ellen Batchelor (1917) was the first Home Demonstration Agent employed in Kansas, Wyandotte County. Later she was also Acting State Home Demonstration Leader in 1921, 1923 and 1936. Some of the first lessons were in food preparation and the making of clothing and hats because the cost of ready-made clothing was too high.

Following is a “bird’s eye view” of our KAFCE History:

- 1914 First home demonstration unit was created in Leavenworth County (Glenwood Club) when women requested help in food preservation from a national club leader.
- 1921 The first Extension Homemaker Units were organized and were called Community Clubs and later they were known as Farm Bureau Units.
- 1938 The Kansas Home Demonstration Advisory Council was organized with Georgiana Smurthwaite, State Home Demonstration Leader presiding. Mrs. Ethel (Paul) Edgar of Topeka was the first state president.
- 1939 Kansas Home Demonstration Advisory Council became a member of National Home Demonstration Advisory Council and as such a member of the Associated Country Women of the World.
- 1944 Farm Bureau Units have their name changed to Home Demonstration Units to emphasize relationship between work of County Home Demonstration Agents and Extension Home Economics at Kansas State College.
- 1945 Membership: 24,237
- 1951 Home Demonstration Scholarships became available for the first time and designated for a second semester sophomore or junior in the amount of \$200 per year to encourage professional interest in Home Demonstration Agent or Extension work.
- 1952 Membership: 44,364 in 2,254 units.
- 1953 During the annual meeting in February it was voted to secure funds to build a cooperative Scholarship House, costing about \$150,000. It was suggested that each member give \$1.00 for three years to raise this amount. Miss Georgiana Smurthwaite, for whom the house is named, retired from active state leadership but remained in an advisory role until 1957.

- 1958 The National Home Demonstration Council meeting was held in Wichita at the Arcadia Theater Wichita Forum, October 12 –15. The theme was “Open Doors”. 4,500 women were present from 46 states, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Mrs. Lawrence House, Goodland, Kansas, was the Kansas President. Mrs. Verne Alden, Wellsville, Kansas, was national president.
- 1961 Smurthwaite Scholarship House at Kansas State University was completed with 62 women paying \$450 per year compared to \$700 in other resident halls.
- 1965 The name was changed from Kansas Home Demonstration Advisory Council to Kansas Extension Homemakers Council and Home Demonstration Units became Extension Homemaker Units.
- 1966 Total funding of \$150,000 for Smurthwaite House collected and celebration was held.
- 1972 Kansas Extension Homemakers Council voted to participate with Kansas Council of Women to raise funds for building a cottage at Rock Springs Ranch.
- 1977 Adult Education Grant for Unit women was established to further their education.
- 1978 First recipient of Adult Education Grant was Virginia Downing of Anthony, Kansas in the amount of \$1,000.
- 1985 “Get It Together Kansas” safety belt program, which reached 60,000 Kansans received national recognition. Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of Transportation, praised members at the 1985 Annual Workshop in Wichita for their work in safety belt education.
- 1988 National Extension Homemakers awarded Kansas 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Feature Writing. Spend year getting ready for National Meeting. Bernis Parker was the General Chair.
- 1989 Membership: 20,675 in 1,443 units in 105 counties. Kansas hosted the National Extension Homemakers Council annual meeting. August 6 – 11 in Manhattan. Theme: Rich Heritage, Golden Opportunity, Sunny Future. 2,205 participants from 44 states and 2 provinces and territories registered for the conference. National Extension Homemakers awarded Kansas 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Feature Writing. ACWW Triennial was held in Kansas City, Mo. President Juanita Gillaspie and four others attended the meeting.
- 1990 Membership: 19,723 in 1,391 units in 105 counties.
- 1991 Kansas Extension Homemakers Council (KEHC) adopted a Comprehensive Marketing Plan. It included a logo, statewide radio spots, and brochure. KEHC had a state membership list for the first time. The KEHC Handbook was revised and the Standard of Excellence updated. An informative letter was sent to each member for the first time. Regional award for top in Literacy (Sandy Schemm) and Environmental Issues (Lucille Horyna).
- 1992 Name Change. Changed our name to Kansas Association for Family and Community Education. President made a video and sent to each county to explain change. Dues changed for NAFCE from \$.50 to \$12.50. KAFCE dues

- were \$2 and \$1 for educational fee for printing lessons and forms. President, Bernis Parker, attended ACWW in Holland. Top in Regional Awards for Waste Management and Literacy (what the flag means to me).
- 1993 Profits Task Force gave grants of \$21,000 to twenty-eight FCEs and county groups for community service action. Grant money came from hosting the 1989 National Conference.
- 1994 KAFCE Handbook was revised. Adopted the KAFCE Creed. The Board was restructured and Educational Program Committee was formed. Honorable Mention from NAFCE for Children and Television and top in Regional for Environment and Literacy.
- 1995 National president from Hawaii was guest at Annual State Conference in Hays. Members actively seek pledges for April 5, "Tune Out Violence" on TV. Launched a marketing program to market FCE internally and externally. Representative, Juanita Gillaspie, attended the ACWW meeting in Christ Church, New Zealand.
- 1996 Revamped the KAFCE NEWS and sent it to every member as an information and communication tool. Thirty-eight delegates from Kansas attended National Conference 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and for the dedication of the new National Headquarters in Burlington, Kentucky. Composed two educational lessons in cooperation with NAFCE and K-State Research and Extension.
- 1997 Set up plans for total responsibility for membership lists, coordinating annual conferences, and composing and printing a partial share of the educational program lessons. Board of directors authorized new policy book. Worked with state attorney general and participated in "FCE Sting" national project on consumer and mail fraud.
- 1998 President, Joan Best, attended the ACWW Triennial in South Africa. Kansas worked with the Attorney General with the FCE Sting and collected thousands of scam letters. Handbook was revised.
- 1999 Yarn and embroidery floss were collected to send to India. 15,500 new skeins were sent besides the many half-skeins and rolls of thread. The Habitat For Humanity, Africa project was begun and \$4,000 collected.
- 2000 The insurance coverage was changed so that each member was automatically enrolled in a \$1000 Accidental Death policy. Several payments have been made to various beneficiaries. Membership was 3,346.
- 2001 President, Judy Fullmer, attended the ACWW Triennial in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Received money from the FCE Foundation Assets -- \$89,407 (based on Kansas FCE membership as of Dec. 31, 1997). October 11, 2001 was the day chosen for members to write – A Day in the Life of my Community. This project was a partnership with the Kansas Historical Society. The LIFE project was begun. 1<sup>st</sup> at National FCE for Action Report.
- 2002 Won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the National Meeting for Education (Are You Driving, Miss Daisy?) defensive driving course and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Leadership (A Day in the Life of my Community). Cooperated with BPW to host candidate forums for the

- upcoming election. A Lesson/booklet on household hints gleaned from the members throughout the state was published.
- 2003 Heloise, noted columnist with household hints, was the keynote speaker for the Conference in Hays. A laptop computer and projector were purchased for the use in educational training. National dues were raised 50 cents a member beginning in 2004. Received 2<sup>nd</sup> in Action with a CHARACTER COUNTS! display at the National meeting.
- 2004 President, Peggy Martens, attended the ACWW Triennial in Tasmania, Australia. The Kansas FCE website was opened. Received 3<sup>rd</sup> for program and 1<sup>st</sup> for display board in Leadership with "Household Hints" and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Action for CHARACTER COUNTS! from National FCE.
- 2005 Revised bylaws were adopted to streamline the organization. A cookbook of member contributions of 1401 recipes was published and sold. Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance was increased to \$2,000 per member. A laptop computer was purchased for the treasurer's position. National awards re: Val and Norma Henton Outstanding FCE Family; 2<sup>nd</sup> place Program Award in Education for "Preparing for a Natural Disaster"; 3<sup>rd</sup> place for program and 1<sup>st</sup> place for display board in Leadership on ACWW.
- 2006 Handbook was revised. National awards received: 2<sup>nd</sup> place report/display in Action (Hearth Fire #22 – Forgetfulness or Alzheimers? and Tenderhearts: I am a Caregiver). 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the display board in Education for (Women Searching for Chocolate). 3<sup>rd</sup> place report/display of a Community Service. Histories of FCEs book was completed. Kansas dues were raised \$2.00 and national dues raised \$3.00.