

# KANSAS FCE NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF The Kansas Association for Family and Community Education



## PRESIDENT - FAYE SPENCER



Kansas FCE Scholarship – To increase the number of applicants for the 2026-2027 term, I created a spreadsheet listing each USD in the FCE membership counties and a generic letter for high schools. An email was sent to all the County FCE Council officers with the Kansas FCE Scholarship Application and the high school letter.

The County FCE Council officers were to encourage their FCE Units to contact their local schools. This endeavor paid off. Applications by the Area: NE – 4; NW – 4; SC – 4; SE – 7; SW – 2; total 21. The 2025-2026 scholarship winners submitted the required documentation verifying completion of first semester and enrollment for second semester. Second semester scholarship payment to their colleges was sent by Marcy Price.

Heart of FCE: All 5 areas have a nominee, NE – Virginia Foley; NW – Susan Becker; SC – Lory Fisher; SE Linda Leonard; SW – Judy Fullmer. Voting was completed by Area Directors. The 2026 Heart of FCE State Winner is \_\_\_\_\_.

Achieving FCE Materials: Decluttered my house and what I would put in the trash has been organized so to deposit at KSU archive. Learned that it is difficult to access that area if one wants/needs to dig up FCE information. Wondering if this is something that served its purpose. Refer to Marcy Price.

ACWW Triennial Conference: I am registered as a Lead Delegate with 5 voting cards.

Executive Committee Meeting of February 13 was held at the home of DeLores Walden. Cindy Kiser attended via a Zoom link. Topics covered:

- \* Kansas FCE membership to the County Women's Council (CWC) was discussed. It was decided not to continue membership; therefore, the Ruth Buxton Sayre Scholarship application form was removed from the Kansas FCE Website. Also, Kansas FCE membership to ACWW will be sent directly to the ACWW, not through CWC who has a fee to process to ACWW.
- \* First-Timers Conference Scholarship will have a change in wording and add that the applicant will provide a sharing report to a group and/or Kansas FCE News.
- \* Audit and budget by Area Directors may need Handbook wording update.
- \* Membership Dues and Contribution Report: remove the International Peace Garden.
- \* Kansas FCE Scholarship Application for the 2027-2028, the wording may change to “the scholarship amount awarded will be determined by the Board of Directors according to financial availability or up to \$1,000”.
- \* Marketing table at State Conference: Suggest members bring gently-used former marketing items (such as FCE bags) for resale.
- \* Kansas FCE NEWS The 2025 newsletter cost \$1.40 per each to mail. Need to discuss possible changes.

### **Attention to all Kansas FCE members**

**This warning can't be repeated enough.** Already in 2026, I have had questions from members who did receive scam emails.

Let it be known that none of your national and state officers will NEVER, ever, send you an email requesting you to purchase gift cards, or any other form of money!!! Because the officers' contact information is on the web, scammers harvest that information and send emails requesting finances. DO NOT TAKE THE BAIT! Do NOT reply to them. Do NOT click on any link of that email. Do NOT telephone the scammer. If you have any doubts or concerns, simply telephone.

All financial transactions by the national and state treasurer are processed the "old" fashion way, NEVER by electronic apps.

#### **Vice President - DeLores Walden**

As you look over and give the 2026 lessons, decide what projects you can turn into a leadership opportunity. For several years, the State EPC hasn't had a leadership report.

The County, Area and State EPC members deserve a big thank you for the work that they have done. Judging to determine the state winners of the 2025 Accomplishment Reports and Community Service Project Reports was done on February 26th. Winners are listed under Susan Gartrell's State EPC report.

Thanks to Susan Gartrell, Lois Carlson, and Linda Hess for their work on the State EPC.

Susan Gartrell is finishing her three year term. I am looking for someone who would serve on the State EPC.

A few computer skills are almost a necessary part of the position. A candidate may have served on the Area EPC or as county president. Writing a lesson each year is optional. If you have any questions, contact me.

The State EPC is writing 2027 lessons. I already have 2 lessons from K-State and working to get the third lesson then set the leadership training date.

#### **Treasurer - Marcy Price:**

Each year you need to update your EIN information with the IRS. This can be done at [irs.gov](https://irs.gov)

Thank you for all the contributions that were sent in with your dues. Clovia house received 396.00 and Smurthwaite received 306.00 due to your generosity.

Make plans now to attend the 2026 Kansas FCE State Conference in Atchison, Kansas. Plans are formalizing to bring new information and discuss timely topics during the business meeting that you will not want to miss.

The cost of the Kansas FCE News, was discussed at the last board meeting, It is roughly \$1.40 for each newsletter mailed. This month we will email the news as well as mail it. I hope you will await your copy by email.

## AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS:

### NORTHEAST – Diane Nielson:

For procrastinators and conference planners alike, Amelia Earhart's message: "In soloing — as in other activities — it is far easier to start something than it is to finish it". I am happy to report your 2026 conference planning in the safe leadership of co-chairs Anita Felzke and Lynne Cathey.

Northeast Area FCE members share many traits of Amelia Earhart- tenacity, courage, action, adventure, and women's empowerment. They have come together in Holton and Atchison to plan your 2026 state conference. The conference promises to offer Kansas FCE members an adventure of a lifetime. Plan to come early for tours of history, mystery and entertainment, special interest sessions and make-n-take opportunities. You do not want to miss the Welcoming FCE Event held at the Amelia Earhart Hanger Museum where our FCE flight crew will serve a desert bar. And for the brave hearted there will be a spirited Atchison trolley rides. Support Kansas FCE Scholarship by contributing a basket for "Prizes by the Yard". Last year in Dodge City, members contributed over \$800 via this fun activity.

With a conference theme of *Soaring To New Heights With FCE*, you can expect this to be no ordinary event. Starting with a soup and salad luncheon, join FCE friends across the state to celebrate FCE achievements, conduct FCE business, enjoy an evening of entertainment and participate in the Think Big. . . Act Small Community service project. Plan to join us to celebrate 250 years as a nation and 90 years of National FCE organization. Several FCE themed workshops will round out the schedule. It is not too early to plan your adventure in Atchison with your FCE friends. Mark your calendar for October 6-8 for an FCE experience of a lifetime. Sign up for conference text/email message updates and conference contests. Read this newsletter for more details!

Beyond the world of conference planning, FCE members submitted reports for Standard of Excellence, programs, community service and member recognition. Special thanks to the NE Area Education Program Committee chaired by Margaret Barnes, and members Tina Bailey, and Carol Lintner, for their leadership. As appointments are for a 3-year term, members will be nominating a member for 2026-2029 term that begins in July. The April 2, NE Area meeting will be held in Holton. Virginia Foley, will be recognized for her FCE contributions as the NE Area Heart of FCE nominee. NE Area FCE business plus more conference planning will round out the day's agenda.

### NORTHWEST - Mona Grady:

The NW Area Council will be holding their Spring Meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at the Stockton Methodist Church of Restoration, 204 N Elm, Stockton, KS. Registration will be 9:30-10 am with the meeting, awards, and guest speaker following. Meal cost is \$10. Registrations are due by April 14<sup>th</sup> to Janie Lowry, 1045 11 RD, Stockton, KS 67669 or email her to [janielowry20@yahoo.com](mailto:janielowry20@yahoo.com). I will be sending out invitations to the NW Area FCE Units in the next week.

This would be a great time for me to introduce myself since I am the newly elected NW Area Director. I have been a member of the Prairie Mates FCE in Russell County for almost 5 years. Three of those five, I served as the President of the Prairie Mates Unit. I currently am the store manager at Bomgaars in Russell, KS. I am one of the original employees who worked building that store from the ground up until it opened May 20, 2021.

I am divorced. I have 3 children, Jerrod, Brett, and Kayla, who all are married. I have 5 grandchildren, Barrett, Adeline, Owen, Elsie, and Emmalynn. My favorite time is spending time with my children, grandchildren, and my sister, Michele, who lives in Colorado. If I have a spare moment to myself, you might find me playing 9 holes on the golf course, throwing a bowling ball at the local bowling alley, shopping, traveling, and just maybe sitting at home on my porch not doing anything but taking in fresh air. I love to cook for my family when I get a chance, but that is rare these days as they all live 2.5 hours from me in different directions.

**(Area Directors continued)****SOUTH CENTRAL – Kathy Preheim:**

Our SC Area EPC met in January to judge the accomplishment and community service reports. Thank you to Melinda Jantz for your service to Area EPC. At this time, SC Area is searching for a member who can volunteer to fill her position. Contact Kathy Preheim for questions or volunteer.

The SC Area Council will be meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in Moundridge for the spring meeting at West Zion Mennonite Church. A special program about the birds, animals, and flowers found in the Maxwell Game Preserve will be given by Trisha Smith, from the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge/The Friends of Maxwell. For a service project, FCE members will be tying fleece blankets for the Department for Children and Families. Recognition will be given, awards handed out, and a business meeting will round out the day.

**SOUTHEAST - Mary Dunn:**

In December, the Leamona FCE decorated a Christmas Tree for the Parade of Trees, an annual event at the Chanute Art Gallery. The theme for this tree was "A Child's Imagination at Christmas" and featured all homemade ornaments made from child-safe art items such as construction paper, pipe cleaners, and hard candy, tinsel, and paste.

The 2026 Southwind Extension Spring Fling for Allen, Bourbon, and Neosho Counties will be held April 13 at 6:00 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 that had recently opened in Humboldt.

The 2026 SE Area Spring Council Meeting and Recognition Day will be held May 7 at 9:00 am at the Crawford County Historical Museum, 651 S Highway 69, Pittsburg, Kansas, 66767, with Crawford County ladies as hostesses. Morning refreshments will be available from 9:00 to 9:30, served by Drum Creek FCE of Montgomery County. Our speaker is Judy Smetana who is an Associate Professor and the Human Resources Director Graduate Program Coordinator in the Kelce College of Business at Pittsburg State University. Her subject matter will be Fostering a Growth Mindset at Work, in School, and at Home. A growth mindset means encouraging the belief that skills and intelligence can be developed through effort, learning, and feedback. She will explain what this looks like at work, in schools, and at home, reinforcing the idea that growth is a life-long process.

We will have our business meeting, and a ceremony honoring all the County Council and FCE Unit Presidents, prepared and presented by Thursday Night Live and Starlite FCE Units from Bourbon County.

There will be a catered meal with a \$15.00 charge which should be paid in advance. Send the payment your County Council treasurers then forwarded to me. Guests may pay at the Registration Table, if necessary.

The SE Area Fall Council Meeting and Workshop Day is planned on November 5, 9:00 am at the K-State Southeast Extension Center, 25092 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Parsons, KS, 67367.

**SOUTHWEST – Connie Chavez:**

Southwest Area FCE units did not let winter keep them from being active!

The Rush County's Prairie Pals FCE Unit planted succulents in dried out pumpkins and gourds filled with dirt followed by a pizza party and an ornament exchange in December.

The Pawnee County's Sunflower FCE Unit donated items to their local food pantry in November and had a gift exchange at their December meeting.

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(Continued)

The Ford County’s Stitch ‘N Chatter FCE Unit purchased gifts and other household items for a few families in need and gave them a cash gift for food and utilities. They also enjoyed a soup, salad and dessert luncheon and exchanged gifts at their December meeting. The Pawnee County’s Sunflower FCE Unit donated items to their local food pantry in November and had a gift exchange at their December meeting.

The Lane County’s Spring Creek FCE Unit donated to their Community Gift tree, shared dinner with guests and had a gift exchange in December. They also matched a donation for their new grocery store. This building replaced the store that burned down 2 years ago.

The Hodgeman County’s Homemakers FCE Unit and guests met for lunch in Ness City in December and toured the Ness County Museum and Bank Building, known as the “Skyscraper of the Plains”, and stopped by the new Sheepdog Brewing Co. located in the historic Ness City Opera House. In February, members signed cards and attended the local nursing home’s Valentine’s Day party where former FCE member Arnella Webb now resides. John and Connie Chavez provided live music for this event.

The Meade County’s Lonestar FCE Unit made snack mix, bagged it and gave it to local senior citizens. They also had a float in the “Christmasing in Plains” parade for the 50<sup>th</sup> year and sponsored the Snowflake King and Queen, providing a crown and medallion.

The Wichita County’s Prairie Pals FCE Unit hosted a Fall Festival in November, and members enjoyed a Christmas dinner in December.

The Gray County’s Bluelight FCE Unit signed about 100 Christmas cards and delivered them to the residents of the Betel Home. They also had a Christmas party and gift exchange in December.

As spring approaches, we look forward to gathering in Rush Center on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for our Southwest Area Council Meeting and Spring Recognition, from 9 am to 3 pm. The Sunshine and Prairie Pals units will serve as hostesses for this event.

**State Nomination Committee - Ruth Shafer, Chair:**

The State Nominating Committee Chair reports that 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 Ruth Shafer 1262 CR 1700, Caney, 67333; C: 620-688-1101; [royshafer@gmail.com](mailto:royshafer@gmail.com).

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“There’s more to life than being a passenger.”  
Amelia Earhart  
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## **State Conference Committee – 2026 NE Area**

### **Report on Roaring To New Heights 2026 State Conference by Anita Felkze**

Diane Nielson is the mastermind of the 2026 FCE State Conference. Under her leadership, plans are well underway for a very successful event. Several meetings have already taken place. The last one in February was very productive. The agenda led us through all facets of the planning. Each county and/or committee was given an opportunity to share their progress.

The meeting started with a tour of the First Presbyterian Church, which will be the conference location. Logistics, such as where the banquet, entertainment, craft and break-off sessions, were shown. Discussion was also held about the hotel, Holiday Inn Express, which is close to the church and has a block of room reserved. Other locations (Airbnbs, VRBOs) or hotels can be booked.

The tours' committee discussed two possibilities for attendees. They included important landmarks of Atchison, i.e., Amelia Earhart's home and Benedictine College. Transportation and costs were also shared. Later in the day members were given an opportunity to experience what the tour(s) would entail.

The conference will host a "Welcoming Evening" at the Amelia Earhart Hangar and Museum the first evening. Complimentary desserts will be served by the NE Area.

A new highlight of this convention will be a group (across the state) community service project referred to as "Think Big, Act Small Community Service". Information was shared about details, such as supplies needed and the chosen FCE area charity. The recipient of the NE area is a preschool and each NE Area county will contribute. Like the NE, remaining areas need to come prepared with a designated charity.

This year, FCE turns 90. In celebrating this milestone, we would like each FCE unit to send Diane Nielson pictures of their community service projects through the years. A video, comprised of these pictures, will be shown at the state convention in honor of FCE's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Other conference details were discussed: Make-n-Take, Scavenger Hunt, Prizes by the Yard, Photo Booth, America's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Centerpieces, Welcome Bag, and Attendance gift.

We feel this was a productive meeting. Each NE county was given tasks to work on and/or complete before the NE Area Spring Workshop. We appreciate what each county has done, but especially Diane and Atchison County members because the brunt of the work needs to be done in Atchison and they have achieved "Soaring Heights" for this conference!

## **State Conference Committee – 2027 SC Area by Kathy Preheim**

The 2027 Kansas FCE State Conference will be held in Abilene, KS on October 5-7 (Tuesday through Thursday), 2027. The Holiday Inn Express has been secured for the accommodations. A block of rooms will be held through September 15, 2027. We will have a conference room for Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup>, free of charge for some of the events taking place that afternoon and evening (unless we exceed the room size).

Wednesday and Thursday activities/meeting will take place in the conference room and auditorium at the Greyhound Hall of Fame. Caterers have been researched for affordable meals. The hope is to have both meals on Wednesday and the luncheon meal paid with the registration.

We have been corresponding with public speakers, museums, places of interest, and the Chisolm Trail Extension District about plans for the conference. It is exciting that there are so many options available for learning during the conference, not to mention the fun places to shop. In-town transportation is being negotiated. The theme will be decided soon.



## 2025 Area Accomplishment Winners

### Accomplishment Report submitted by FCE Unit in the Education Category

- 1<sup>ST</sup>: Terry FCE, Atchison Co./NE Area. *"Understanding Hospice"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: What's New FCE, Rooks Co./NW Area. *"Autism"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Canton Dizzy Dames FCE, McPherson Co./SC Area. *"Protect Your Skin from the Sun"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: G.A.L.S. FCE, Allen Co./SE Area. *"Understanding Hospice"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Stitch and Chatter FCE, Ford Co./SW Area. *"Developing a Dynamic Group"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Broderick FCE, Pottawatomie Co./NE Area. *"Autism"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: North Star FCE, Phillips Co./NW Area. *"Autism"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Witty Women FCE, Sedgwick Co./SC Area. *"Autism"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Starlight FCE, Bourbon Co./SE Area. *"Understanding Hospice"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Harmony FCE, Johnson Co./NE Area. *"CHARACTER COUNTS!® - Trustworthiness"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Rock n' Roll FCE, Neosho Co./SE Area. *"Autism"*

### Accomplishment Report submitted by FCE Unit in the Action Category

- 1<sup>ST</sup>: Farmerettes FCE, Atchison Co./NE Area. *"Protect Your Skin from the Sun"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Hobart Homemakers FCE, Rooks Co./NW Area.  
*"Nourishing the Brian: Nutritional Recommendations for Combatting Neurodegenerative Diseases"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Kettle Queens FCE, McPherson Co./SC Area.  
*"Nourishing the Brian: Nutritional Recommendations for Combatting Neurodegenerative Diseases"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Leamona FCE, Neosho Co./SE Area. *"Sifting Through the FLOUR Bouquet"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Movers & Shakers FCE, Smith Co./NW Area. *"Appreciating Generational Differences"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Modern Mrs. FCE, Harvey Co./SC Area. *"Appreciating Generational Differences"*

### Accomplishment Report submitted by County FCE Council in the Education Category

- 1<sup>ST</sup>: Allen County/SE Area. *"Sifting Through the FLOUR Bouquet"*

### Community Service Project submitted by FCE Unit

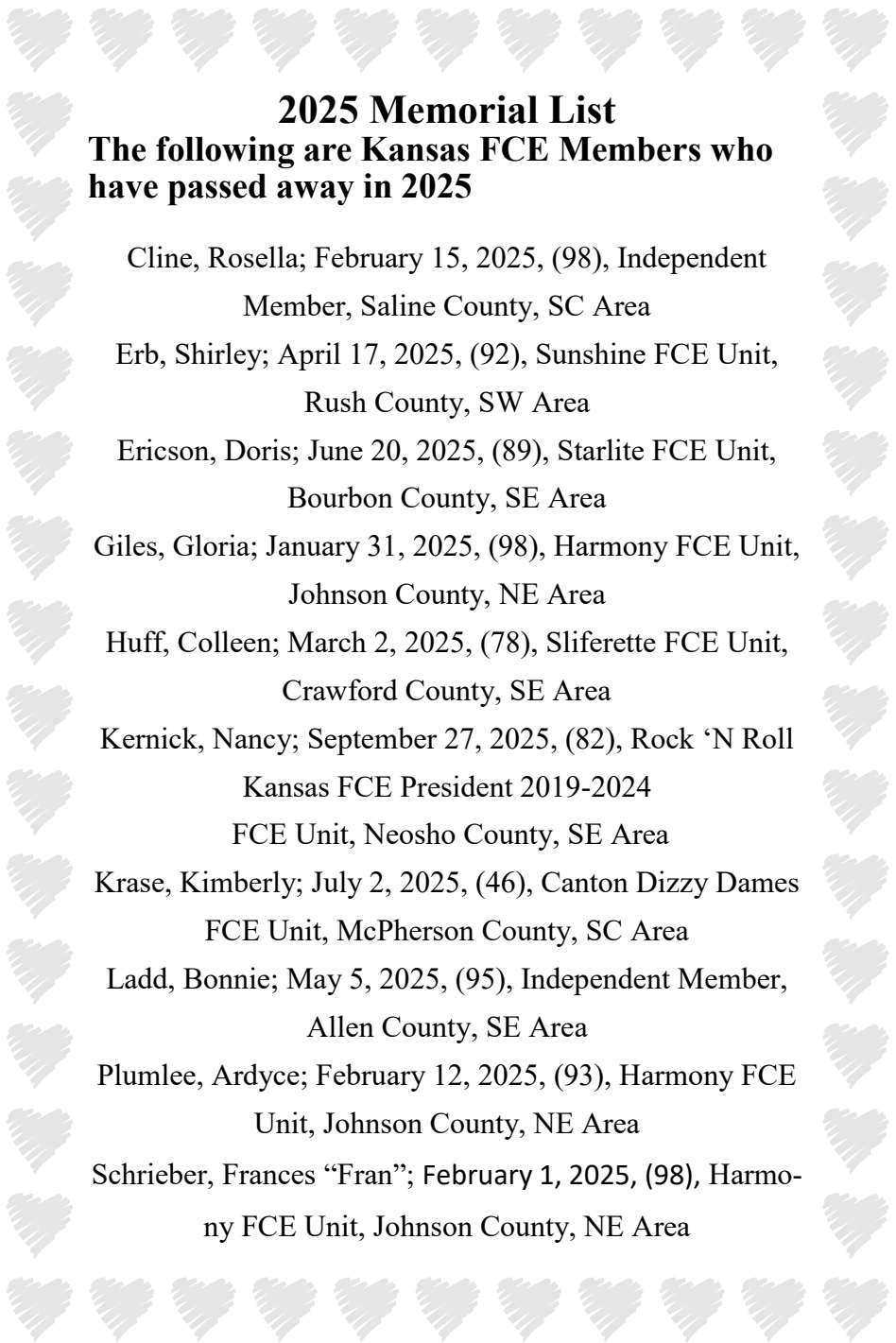
- 1<sup>ST</sup>: Kaw Better Homes FCE, Pottawatomie Co./NE Area. *"Raise a Reader"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Hobart Homemakers FCE, Rooks Co./NW Area. *"4-H Cloverbud Youth"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Kettle Queens FCE, McPherson Co./SC Area. *"Volunteering"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Thursday Night Live FCE, Bourbon Co./SE Area. *"Protect Your Skin from the Sun"*  
 1<sup>ST</sup>: Stitch and Chatter FCE, Ford Co./SW Area. *"Christmas for Needy Family"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Farmerettes FCE, Atchison Co./NE Area. *"Display the Flag on Main Street"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Movers & Shakers FCE, Smith Co./NW Area. *"Appreciate the Community"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Witty Women FCE, Sedgwick Co./SC Area. *"Main Street Threads"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Renaissance FCE, Crawford Co./SE Area. *"Revitalize Countryside Park"*  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: Spring Creek FCE, Lane Co./SW Area. *"Supporting Our Community"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Harmony FCE, Johnson Co./NE Area. *"Washington Elementary School"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Prairie Mates FCE, Russell Co./NW Area. *"Hospitality Suite for Judges at Fair"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Leamona FCE, Neosho Co./SE Area. *"Chanute Art Gallery Parade of Trees"*  
 3<sup>RD</sup>: Sunshine FCE, Rush Co./SW Area. *"Bison Library Fundraiser"*  
 HM: Terry FCE, Atchison Co./NE Area. *"Planters at the Public Library"*  
 HM: Spring Hill FCE, Johnson Co./NE Area. *"Keep the Homeless Warm"*  
 HM: Bluelight FCE, Gray Co./SW Area. *"Christmas Cards to Bethel Home"*

**Community Service Project submitted by County FCE Council**

1<sup>ST</sup>: Johnson County FCE Council/NE Area. *“Layette Bags”*

**100% Reporting by County**

- Allen County/SE Area
- Atchison County/NE Area
- Bourbon County/SE Area
- Crawford County/SE Area
- Doniphan County/NE Area
- Ford County/SW Area
- Gray County/SW Area
- Hamilton County/SW Area
- Harvey County/SC Area
- Hodgeman County/SW Area
- Jackson County/NE Area
- Johnson County/NE Area
- Labelle County/SE Area
- Lane County/SW Area
- McPherson County/SC Area
- Montgomery County/SE Area
- Neosho County/SE Area
- Norton County/NW Area
- Pawnee County/SW Area
- Phillips County/NW Area
- Pottawatomie County/NE Area
- Republic County/NE Area
- Rooks County/NW Area
- Rush County/SW Area
- Russell County/NW Area
- Saline County/SC Area
- Sedgwick County/SC Area
- Smith County/NW Area
- Wichita County/SW Area



**2025 Memorial List**

**The following are Kansas FCE Members who have passed away in 2025**

- Cline, Rosella; February 15, 2025, (98), Independent Member, Saline County, SC Area
- Erb, Shirley; April 17, 2025, (92), Sunshine FCE Unit, Rush County, SW Area
- Ericson, Doris; June 20, 2025, (89), Starlite FCE Unit, Bourbon County, SE Area
- Giles, Gloria; January 31, 2025, (98), Harmony FCE Unit, Johnson County, NE Area
- Huff, Colleen; March 2, 2025, (78), Sliferette FCE Unit, Crawford County, SE Area
- Kernick, Nancy; September 27, 2025, (82), Rock ‘N Roll Kansas FCE President 2019-2024 FCE Unit, Neosho County, SE Area
- Krase, Kimberly; July 2, 2025, (46), Canton Dizzy Dames FCE Unit, McPherson County, SC Area
- Ladd, Bonnie; May 5, 2025, (95), Independent Member, Allen County, SE Area
- Plumlee, Ardyce; February 12, 2025, (93), Harmony FCE Unit, Johnson County, NE Area
- Schrieber, Frances “Fran”; February 1, 2025, (98), Harmony FCE Unit, Johnson County, NE Area

## 2026 National and Kansas FCE Dates to Remember

April 15	Due date for National FCE forms, awards, honors and contest.
April 26 to May 1	ACWW Triannual Conference, Ottawa, Canda
April 29	Women Walk the World
May 15	International Day of the Family
June 5	Kansas FCE Board of Directors' Meeting, State nominations forms due
July 21	National FCE Annual Business Meeting
July 20-23	National FCE Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Cincinnati, Erlanger, KY
August	Kansas State EPC Leadership Training
September 25	Kansas FCE Board of Directors' Meeting
October 6-8	Kansas FCE State Conference, Atchison
October 11-17	National FCE Week (second full week in October)
November 22-28	National Family Week (last full week in November)

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## Let Us Celebrate 90 Years of FCE!

National FCE is celebrating 90 years of building a better way of life for all by strengthening individuals, families and communities.

FCE is all about unity, building friendships and strong community bonds. It is about serving each other, strengthening each other, cheering each other on! For the last ninety years you have been the ones helping others grow in leadership, showing others new skills, and teaching each other to step outside their comfort zone.

The National FCE Board is planning a great conference and sharing good ideas to strengthen our members and the organization. As usual there will be two Hearth Fire and two FCL presentations, and we are getting presentations from some state FCE presenters. There will also be outside presenters and ACWW information. Our afternoon service project will be making tied fleece blankets to donate. Information for the blankets will be sent to all members in a future email and the FCE TODAY.

**We are planning to have FUN!!! We invite you all to the Party!**

The 2026 National FCE Conference will be in Erlanger, Kentucky

Celebrate FCE! We Are FCE!

Monday, July 20 thru Thursday, July 23, 2026

Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport, an IHG Hotel

1717 Airport Exchange Blvd

Erlanger, KY, 41018

For more information check the webpage below....

<https://www.nafce.org/2026national-conference-info>

Phone number: (859)-371-2233 ext. 0 for Hotel Reservations (group booking code NAF)

## **Heart of FCE Nominees**

### **Northwest - Susan Becker**

Susan is a lifelong resident of Milberger, a mother of two, and a grandmother of four. She was married to Martin Becker, who has recently passed away. Together they built a successful farming and cattle operation now managed by their son, Ryan. Within the FCE unit, Susan serves as treasurer and plays key roles on the Sunshine and Party Committees. She also coordinates the Prairie Mates Turkey Dinner fundraiser. Having previously served as secretary and president, Susan provides steady leadership, organizational skills, and ideas that keep meetings, projects, lessons, and fundraisers on schedule for the benefit of the entire unit.

### **Southwest - Judy Fullmer**

Judy Fullmer exemplifies servant leadership through 54 years of dedicated service to FCE at the local, state, and national levels. She has held every local office, served as Kansas and National FCE president, and contributed as a trained parliamentarian, while remaining deeply committed to her local unit and community. Judy applies her leadership through church service, education programs, youth leadership, and community organizations. Drawing on training from the Kansas Leadership Center, she helps articulate and advance a shared vision for FCE and the community. Her example inspires others to serve, lead, and strengthen families through education.

### **Southeast - Linda Leonard**

Linda Leonard is nominated for the 2026 Heart of FCE Award for her 44 years of dedicated service to GALS and Family and Community Education. She has served in nearly every leadership role at the club, county, area, and state levels, including council treasurer, long-term president, area director, and lesson author. Linda has also led and supported numerous community projects, civic boards, and volunteer efforts. Despite personal loss and health challenges, she continues to serve faithfully. Her commitment, organization, and generosity truly embody the "Heart of FCE."

### **Southcentral - Lory Fisher**

Lory Fisher is nominated by the Kettle Queens FCE Unit for the Heart of FCE Award in recognition of her extensive service and leadership. She organized a local food drive, created unit banners for public display and events, and served in numerous roles including reporter, secretary, council representative, EPC representative, and vice president, earning award-winning recognition. Lory helped make comforters for foster children, prepared convention prize baskets, and organized a bicycle decorating contest for elementary students. She contributed to parades, arts organizations, church activities, and civic groups, positively impacting FCE and the broader Moundridge and McPherson County communities.

### **Northeast - Virginia Foley**

Atchison FCE County Council nominates Virginia Foley for the 2026 Heart of FCE Award. Her outstanding contributions to the NE Area FCE are numerous. She is recognized for sharing FCE lessons and information with hundreds of community members, demonstrating healthy cooking at local events, and actively promoting Autism Awareness. She organized a workshop in barn quilt painting as a fundraiser for Scholarships. Virginia also serves in various supportive roles within the community and church, including as Vice-President of St. Ann's Catholic Church and Altar Society, exemplifying dedicated civic and church involvement.

**Amelia Earhart History by Diane Nielson**

With plans to host the 2026 state FCE conference in Atchison, it would remiss of me not to mention Atchison’s favorite daughter. Amelia Earhart was a pioneer in aviation. But life was not always easy for Amelia. Her father frequently changed jobs and struggled with alcoholism. The family often struggled financially and moved often. Her sister Grace Muriel Earhart known as "Pidge," was Amelia's constant companion. The siblings often lived with her maternal grandparents in Atchison. After attending six high schools in four years, Amelia graduated from Chicago's Hyde Park High School in June 1915.

To support of her flying adventures, Amelia took on odd jobs such driving a gravel truck to pay for flying lessons and purchase an airplane. Her parents, Amy Otis Earhart and Edwin Stanton Earhart, divorced in 1924. Amelia would sell her airplane to purchase a Kissel roadster car she called the “Yellow Peril.” In June 1924, she drove cross-country with her mother from Los Angeles to Medford, Massachusetts. She and her mother then moved in with Amelia's sister Muriel, in Medford. Amelia would continue to take on odd jobs to support her love of flying. Over the next decade success would come, Amelia would become known around the world for her aviation achievements.

In 1935, Atchison honored its hometown hero with a massive homecoming celebration. The festivities held on June 7, 1935, were organized with assistance from the Kansas Editorial Association attracting thousands of spectators. It would Amelia’s final visit to Atchison before her 1937 disappearance. Today the annual Amelia Earhart festival celebrates Amelia’s birthday of July 24,1897.

Ninety years later, Amelia Earhart is still renowned for her quotes emphasizing courage, action, adventure, and women's empowerment. Famous for her fearless pursuit of flying, her words often encourage taking risks, such as, “The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.” Or consider these gems of wisdom: “The most effective way to do it, is to do it”. “Adventure is worthwhile in itself”. “There's more to life than being a passenger.”

“Decide whether or not the goal is worth the risks involved. If it is, stop worrying” may be a bit of sage advice for planning those local FCE projects. And only Amelia could warn about troubles yet to comes, “In my life, I had come to realize that, when things were going very well, indeed, it was just the time to anticipate trouble”.

And if you are looking for inspirational words to share with a granddaughter or special niece, Amelia has an answer too, “Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others.”

If you are in the t-shirt printing business, this is a message that belongs on your next shirt, “Preparation, I have often said, is rightly two-thirds of any venture”. It’s no wonder we continue to be inspired by a pilot who passed away in 1937, “Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace, the soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things.”

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: “The most effective way to do it, is to do it.” :  
: Amelia Earhart :  
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## Ninety Years of Memories!

Dear National FCE Members,

2026 is the 90th anniversary of the formation of FCE!!! That is a great accomplishment these days!

To help celebrate our Ninety-year journey, the National Board has voted to put together a booklet that will be a collection of great recipes you may or may not have gotten through FCE, your tips to make life simpler, and memories of your time and friendships within FCE!

Please think about your journey through FCE and some of the best times you had with others, search your files for recipes and household hints, and share your thoughts and special memories about this wonderfully unique and long-lived organization that we all love and honor.

We know that these memories, recipes and or tips that will be enjoyed by all National FCE members for many years to come.

Please send all submissions to (This is the preferred method)

Bonnie Teeples [bdteples@charter.net](mailto:bdteples@charter.net)

If you need to mail your submission, please send to Bonnie Teeples

4338 Arthur Street

Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

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### ACWW International Year of the Woman Farmer

2026 has been declared the International Year of the Woman Farmer by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), shining a global spotlight on the vital role women play in agriculture and food systems worldwide.

ACWW is proud to be partnering with FAO to support this important initiative with various events throughout the year.

Despite their contributions, women farmers often face significant barriers, including limited access to land, education, financing, and decision-making opportunities. Their work is frequently under recognized, even as they carry a disproportionate share of agricultural and caregiving responsibilities.

ACWW plays an active role in advancing the goals of the International Year of the Woman Farmer by amplifying the voices and experiences of women farmers worldwide. Through storytelling, partnerships, and targeted projects, ACWW's work aims to increase visibility, strengthen recognition, and support meaningful action that reflects the everyday realities of women in agriculture.

The following is the website of their stories: <https://acww.org.uk/year-of-the-woman-farmer>

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Did you know Kansas FCE has a website? Check it out at [www.kafce.org](http://www.kafce.org).



### **2026 DATES TO REMEMBER**

NE – April 2, Evangel Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Holton, KS.

NW – April 21, Stockton Methodist Church, Stockton, KS.

SC – April 14, West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS.

SE – May 7, Crawford County Historical Museum, Pittsburg, KS.

SW – April 23, Rush Center, KS, Rush Center Township Hall.