



February 2024

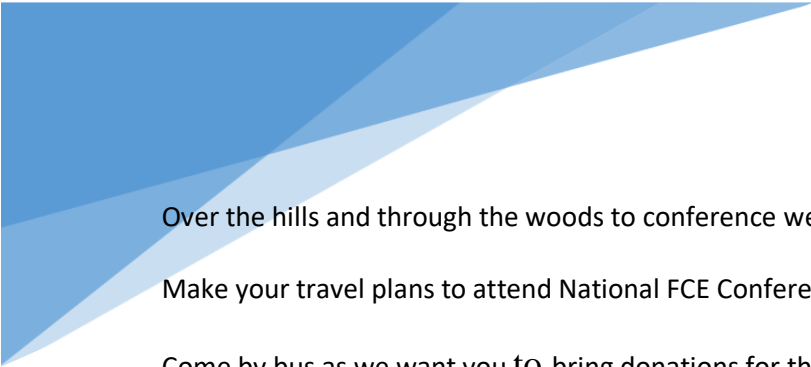
Greetings from your National FCE Board ~

“From the beginning it was survival training that came into the community from Extension Service. Then clubs were formed and the rest is history.” Our organization started out with the extension service in various states educating rural women on safe food preparation and generally helped to improve the life of rural women. The women soon gathered together to share this information. State councils were formed and in 1928 there were 18,956 clubs with 388,197 members. The benefits of a national program was recognized. In June of 1936 nearly seven thousand women were in Washington, DC when the National Home Demonstration Council came into being. The women had come to attend the third Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World and to organize the rural women into a national organization. Today we are a small group of 13 states and one 3 state association. Our association with the Extension service is as a partner. We are an independent organization and in some states work with extension service on mutual concerns. We continue to work to improve the lives of not only women but families. We are a part of ACWW and work on many of the issues that they identify as problems throughout the world. At the 2023 conference the attendees worked through a lengthy process to identify an issue that FCE could focus on for 3 years and that focus was FOOD SECURITY. You will be seeing a lot of information about this topic and there are many different ways your club can address this issue. We are not asking that you give up any other community projects you have but we hope you can find a way to address this issue by educating the public and finding ways to be a public voice about Food Security. The Midyear FCE Zoom meeting is about Food Security and you will find the registration form with this issue of the FLASH.

Every year there are open positions to be filled on the National FCE Board. Serving on the national board is a great way to learn more about how things work from the national level. It is a different ballgame so-to-speak from serving on a state board. Please consider stepping up-to-the-plate and giving it a try!

Open positions to be elected in 2024 are: Secretary, Program Coordinator, Public Policy Coordinator, and President-elect. If you are interested or know someone else who would make a good candidate contact the nominating chair, Kristin Walker by phone at (304) 863-8253 or by email at kristinfce@yahoo.com.

Information can be found on our website www.nafce.org. Look at the bylaws ARTICLE V for qualifications, terms, and duties. You may also call Kristin or any board member with questions that you might have pertaining to any of the offices up for elect

A decorative graphic in the top left corner consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent blue shapes that form a triangular, mountain-like silhouette pointing to the right.

Over the hills and through the woods to conference we're a goin'...

Make your travel plans to attend National FCE Conference this year.

Come by bus as we want you to bring donations for the women's shelter, items for the silent auction, and, of course, take items home that you purchased.

Lots of exciting and interesting plans are being made. Plan to arrive Wednesday, July 24. That evening there will be some fun and a bit of serious.

The Program and Public Policy Coordinators are busy working on Hearth Fires and FCL programs for Friday and Saturday: "What is the American Red Cross", "Food Security: How Can I Help", "What Does Food Security Look Like?", "Finesse + Civility = Leadership", "Spilling the Beans on Beans".

We will again be in Erlanger, KY. It is close to Headquarters. Watch for all the information about registration, which will be the same price as last year. (Don't forget how great the food and the servers were!!)