

KANSAS FCE NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



President - Faye Spencer

Kansas FCE Scholarship: Two winners for the 2026-2027 Kansas FCE Scholarships are Parker Attwood and Karson Sasse. Both graduated from Smith Center High School, Smith County, NW Area. Parker will attend Washburn University in the field of kinesiology. Karson is enrolled to attend Cloud County Community College with the program of health and human performance. Fund raising will be

ongoing since there has been an increase number of applications. There were 22 applications for the 2026-2027 college year term.

Heart of FCE: The 2026 Heart of FCE State Winner is NE Virginia Foley.

CHARACTER COUNTS!® - RESPECT: Crew Koeh, Moundridge Middle School, Moundridge, McPherson County, SC Area, was the state winner who will compete in the National FCE competition.

ACWW Triennial Conference: How exciting and wonderful to be able to attend this international conference. I learned in-depth workings of parliamentary procedure while the resolutions and elections were voted on. The delegate voting strength and the majority types were announced upon the conclusion of each voting. More detailed actions will be taken at the National FCE 2026 Annual Conference based on ACWW voter approved resolutions. The next ACWW Terannual will be in Ireland, 2029.

Executive Committee Meeting of May 29, 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, as their gratification for the scholarship, provide a sharing report to their Area FCE Council and/or submit a report to *Kansas FCE News*.

Audit and budget by Area Directors may need Handbook wording update.

Membership Dues and Contribution Report: The 2027 FCE Membership and Donation form will have changes to donation area, such as the removal of 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.

National FCE is working on a new member package. All new members will get Member Cards containing their FCE number.

I have been able to attend meetings of: two Area Spring meetings, SC Area was in person and SE was via Zoom; National FCE State Presidents; National FCE Mid-Year Zoom meeting; several Oregon FCE lessons/meetings; and ACWW Lead Delegate meeting.

OFFICIAL CALL * OFFICAL CALL

For the Annual Kansas FCE Business Meeting

Wednesday October 7 at 2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Atchison, Kansas

This meeting is for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports and transacting other business as may properly come before it. Since the KANSAS FCE NEWS goes to every member, all Kansas FCE members as well as County Council Presidents should consider themselves duly notified.

OFFICIAL CALL * OFFICAL CALL

Vice President - DeLores Walden

Rain! Rain! Go away for a little while. We have had more than enough rain this week, and we are getting more next week. It has been a busy last couple of months getting ready for the State and Area EPC Leadership Training.

Kansas FCE State and Area EPC Leadership Training is set for August 31, 2026. The Kansas FCE Board, Area Directors, and State and Area EPC members are invited to attend. The K-State specialists and Kansas FCE State EPC members will be presenting the 2027 lessons that they wrote.

All the information for the training has been sent to Quik Print in Topeka.

I did attend the ACWW Conference Zoom Meeting that was held in Ottawa, Canada.

Action, Educational, and Community Service reports were sent to the National FCE Office in April. We'll find out at the National FCE Conference in July if Kansas wins any vouchers. In 2025, Kansas FCE won \$125 in vouchers for the reports. This benefit aids Kansas FCE by paying the National FCE Conference registration fees for the President and Vice President.

I have agreed to run for Kansas FCE Vice President for 2027, 2028, and 2029. The Kansas FCE State EPC will be writing lessons again.

Look at today as a door to your dreams and open it.

Treasurer - Marcy Price

The Board of Directors has edited a changed in the current handbook. Area Directors will submit a proposed budget to the Finance Committee for approval at the beginning of each financial year. This has been created so that the Finance Committee can better understand how that each area operates with the yearly income and expenses. Do the areas have enough working capital? Do the areas need help from the state to maintain a cohesive environment? These are some of the questions we are concerned about as a state entity. We are also asking that two County Council Presidents audit the area books to see that adequate records are being maintained. In this issue of the Kansas FCE News, we have published the Bylaw change that has been submitted by member, Peggy Martens. I hope you will read the proposed change and either send your comments to me or bring them to the conference in Atchison. It will be presented at the annual business meeting. I hope you will take time to review the changes that Peggy has presented.

AREA DIRECTORS

NORTHEAST – Diane Nielson:

Northeast Area FCE members gathered on April 2 in Holton for their spring area workshop. The day's agenda included recognizing outstanding program of work accomplishments and Standard of Excellence awards. Members and units with special anniversaries were recognized. Northeast area was once again recognized for 100% Area reporting. Congratulations, Northeast Kansas members. Tina Bailey, Area EPC, shared an overview of the Accomplishment Reports, how to complete and description of the categories, education, leadership and action. Jeannine Flory, Atchison County, and Amy Masters, Doniphan County, will team up to begin a three term on the Area EPC. Members Anita Felzke and Lynee Cathey, Johnson County, volunteered to complete Carol Lintner's EPC term.

A BBQ lunch was prepared and served by volunteers to raise funds to support State Conference activities this fall. The day ended with members continuing to work on plans for the 2026 *"Soaring To New Heights With FCE"* Conference. The dates are October 6 - 8, 2026. Northeast FCE members are planning a program with memories that will last a lifetime. A quilt display will be added to this year's conference schedule.

In May, Area Director Diane Nielson attended FCE District Day hosted by Doniphan Daisies FCE. Members attending came from Atchison and Jackson Counties. A tea party theme added to the fun. Virginia Foley was recognized as the Northeast Heart of FCE recipient. Awards were presented.

Members in Pottawatomie County celebrated their FCE accomplishments in April. Held at the United Methodist Church, the day featured presentations highlighting area talents. The morning focused on basket-making, while in the afternoon, the program featured the history of Grandma Hoorner's business. It grew from a dream to a food supplier for major retailers across the United States.

While schedule conflicts did not allow attendance, Johnson County members gathered in April to FCE achievements.

NORTHWEST – Mona Grady:

Area Director Mona Grady (Prairie Mates FCE) called the meeting to order and thanked the Rooks County FCE for hosting the meeting. She also welcomed 20 FCE Members attending. Counties represented were: Norton = 0; Phillips = 1; Rooks = 12; Russell = 5; and Smith = 2. Sherri Stoppel (Prairie Mates FCE) was appointed Secretary for the meeting.

Mayor Bob Becker welcomed FCE to Stockton and shared interesting points about Stockton. With more than 1400 residents, Stockton serves at the seat of Rooks County and boasts the largest quilt block display in Kansas. Notably, Taylor Swift performed at the Rooks County Free Fair early in her career. In closing, Mayor Becker shared a meaningful quote: "There is no greater value in life than to learn."

Area Director Grady presented the NW Area awards of FCE Recognitions, Standard of Excellence Seals, Membership Recognition, NW Area Education Program Committee awards. Susan Becker, Prairie Mates FCE, was acknowledged as the NW Area Heart of FCE winner.

Anna Muir, Rooks County Extension Agent, conducted an interactive session with the group. Anna is a long-time supporter of FCE and regularly attends the NW Area Meeting. Her personal experience and knowledge of Extension were a big hit with the group.

SOUTH CENTRAL – Kathy Preheim:

The SC Area spring meeting for 2026 was held on Tuesday, April 14 at West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge. Members began and ended the day by tying fleece comforters for the Division of Children and Families in the south central area of Kansas. They also enjoyed snacks provided by the Happy Homemakers FCE Unit, McPherson County. Amanda Lindahl, Chisolm Trail District Extension Agent, was introduced. Melinda Jantz was thanked for serving on Area EPC and Margaret Brewer, Modern Mrs. FCE Unit, Harvey County, was announced as the member to serve on the Area EPC for the next three years. Lory Fisher, Kettle Queens, was recognized as our SC Area Heart of FCE nominee.

Trisha Smith of Maxwell Game Refuge gave a program showcasing beautiful photography about the wildflowers, birds, and wildlife of Maxwell Game Refuge. Following lunch, awards were given to individuals and area FCE units. 100% of the SC Area Units received their gold seal.

SOUTHEAST – Mary Dunn:

The SE Area Spring Council Meeting and Recognition Day was held May 7, 2026, at the Crawford County Historical Museum, with Crawford County FCE Units as hostess. A total of 26 members and 1 guest were present, (Allen-2, Bourbon-6, Crawford-6, Labette-4, Montgomery-2, Neosho 6, and one guest from Crawford County).

Jennine Marrone introduced the speaker, Judy Smetana, Associate Professor and Human Resource Director, Graduate Program Coordinator in the Kelce College of Business at Pittsburg State University. Judy spoke about *Fostering Growth Mindsets* at work, school and at home. There are two types of mindsets. First, Growth Mindset involves encouraging the belief that skills and intelligence can be developed through effort, learning and feedback. The second is Fixed Mindset which believes that your qualities are carved in stone.

A person truly has unknown potential. It is impossible to see what will be accomplished with years of passion, toil, and training. Our job is helping the person tap into their passion by utilizing the following practical steps: 1. Learn something new about a person, 2. Practice giving Positive and Constructive, Growth-Focused feedback, 3. Support smart risks. Come together around failure, 4. Learn to be an Active Listener to have Open, Honest Communication, 5. Demonstrate Dedication, Persistence, and Effort (Grit).

Christina Holmes, K-State University FCS Area Advisor, spoke about the events of the recently held Aging Conference. She suggested during the 2027 Conference on Aging, that FCE should sponsor a booth to educate and promote membership.

Other SE Area members introduced were state officers and/or state committee members: State Secretary Cindy Kiser, State EPC Member Lois Carlson, State Marketing Committee Member Jennine Marrone, and State Nominating Committee Chair Ruth Shafer,

SE Area EPC Chair Linda Dunekack introduced the committee members. Sharon Giacometti, Donna Strickland, and new member Glenda Miller. Linda announced that SE Area had 100% Reporting.

SE Area Heart of FCE for 2026 was Linda Leonard, Allen County. Sadly, Linda passed from this earth on April 8, 2026. Her Heart of FCE pin had been presented to her family before her Celebration of Life.

Area Director Mary Dunn, and EPC Chairwoman Linda Dunekack presented the recognitions. We are so proud of all the FCE Units and members accomplishments!

The County Council President's Parade was prepared by Bourbon County and presented by Karen Peery to our nine presidents. Thanks to Karen and all the work that our presidents do for our communities.

The Southwind Fall Follies Event will be at the Galesburg Community Center, Galesburg, KS, hosted by Neosho County. The program and date are TBA.

The SE Fall Council Meeting is Nov. 5, 2026, at K-State SE Extension Center, Parsons.

SOUTHWEST – Connie Chavez:

Around 30 Southwest Kansas FCE members gathered in Rush Center, Kansas on April 23rd for our annual Spring Recognition meeting. The Rush County Sunshine and Prairie Pals FCE Units hosted the meeting. Our speaker, Brad Penka, shared historic information about “post” rock. The lack of trees in our region brought about the need to quarry the limestone rock for field fencing posts, and building construction.

I am sad to report that Pauline Fecht from Hamilton County, who was recognized for 75 years of membership at our spring meeting, recently passed away. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

Members were invited and encouraged to attend the State FCE Annual Conference in Atchison, in October.

Our area’s fall workshop will be hosted by the Lane County Spring Creek FCE Unit on Thursday, Oct. 15th at the First Christian Church in Dighton.

Many units in our area will use their summer months to attend and assist with their county fairs, do a group tour of a Kansas landmark, or just take a break till school starts in the fall!

We’re looking forward to seeing you all in Atchison!!

State Nomination Committee - Ruth Shafer, Chair:

At the 2026 State Annual Business Meeting, two officers are to be elected, President-elect and Vice President. At the time of this printing, there is one nominee for **Vice President**. DeLores Walden has agreed to run for Kansas FCE Vice President for 2027, 2028, and 2029. The State Nominating Committee Chair reports that no nominee has been found for the **President-elect** position. If any FCE member knows of a candidate, please contact Ruth Shafer 1262 CR 1700, Caney, 67333; C: 620-688-1101; royshafer@gmail.com

Bylaws, Article VI, Nominations and Elections: “Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting. No name shall be placed in nomination without written consent of the nominee. The presiding officer must be notified prior to the opening of the meeting. The person making the nomination shall read the qualifications of the candidate. Written qualifications shall be presented to the presiding officer”.

Therefore, it is not too late to submit a nominee for the office of President-elect.

Standing Committee Articles**State Educational Program Committee – Susan Gartrell**

I am happy to provide this report to the board concerning the reports from the 2025 program year. Reports were collected by county and area EPC representatives in a timely fashion, and State EPC members Susan Gartrell, Linda Hess, and Lois Carlson met by Zoom with Vice President DeLores Walden to judge the reports on Thursday, February 26th, 2026. Following the judging, I mailed all the reports to DeLores.

Accomplishment Reports:

The State EPC received two (2) County Council Accomplishment Reports; one in the action category, and one in the education category.

Twenty-three (23) FCE Accomplishment Reports were submitted for area and state judging from FCE units: (NE area - 6 reports; NW area - 4 reports; SW area - 1 report; SC area - 4 reports; SE area - 8 reports)

There were seven (7) in the action category, fifteen (15) in the education category, and one (1) in the leadership category. The leadership accomplishment report did not meet the requirements for that category and was disqualified. The most popular report topics were Autism, Appreciating Generational Differences, Sifting through the Flour Bouquet, Hospice Care, Protect the Skin from the Sun; Brain Health, and Trustworthiness. We also had a report submitted based on a National Hearth Fire Lesson.

Sixteen (16) reports were marked as Do Not Judge and counted toward 100% reporting requirements.

Community Service Projects/Reports:

2 from Independent Members

1 from a County Council

19 Community Service Reports from FCE Units across the state:

(NE area - 5 reports; NW area - 4 reports; SW area - 4 reports; SC area - 2 reports; SE area - 4 reports)

From looking through the reports, we can see that many of our FCE Units are active and their work is important to their individual community and the citizens of their communities. I love to read about what each group has been focused on during the year. Unfortunately, at area and state judging several community service reports were disqualified because they duplicated the information in an accomplishment report, or because they were based on a current year's education program lesson. It is very important to read the guidelines printed on the report forms. If there are any questions as to how to complete the reports, contact an area or state EPC member.

Marketing – Dorene Reimer

In 2025, Kansas FCE Marketing brought in almost \$1100 from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. This year has begun rather slowly, but after State Conference, I usually send back to each area, items to be marketed at their Area Fall Workshops and Spring Area Meetings. State Meetings usually do very well, last year, over \$700, so, I believe, this year will be equally good and perhaps, better. So far in 2026, we have sold about \$175 of merchandise at one Spring Area Meeting.

Purchases of new items continue to be a challenge because of higher wholesale prices and having to purchase 500 items to get really workable prices for FCE Marketing.

However, I have found a new wholesale company that will help us out this year. Delivery time for orders is fairly short, so, while I am always searching for new items, I tend not to order until July 1 or a bit after. I would accept suggestions from any who have thought of anything all would enjoy and use. Just give me a call.

Hope to see you all at Conference with your checkbooks and ready to do some early shopping for Christmas gifts!

Notice of a proposed amendments to Kansas FCE Bylaws

To seek approval at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting

Currently reads: ARTICLE IV, - DUES, FEES AND FINANCES, SECTION 2 BUDGET, B --- The recommended budget shall be submitted to the members at the Annual Business Meeting for their vote of approval.

Amend ARTICLE IV, - DUES, FEES AND FINANCES, SECTION 2 BUDGET, B by deleting the words “The recommended” and insert the words “A written copy of the proposed”

If adopted, ARTICLE IV, - DUES, FEES AND FINANCES, SECTION 2 BUDGET, B would read:

A written copy of the proposed budget shall be submitted to the members at the Annual Business Meeting for their vote of approval.

Rational: to clarify how the budget is to be “submitted” to the members. Using the word “proposed” means that the budget is proposed through all channels until the members vote to approve.

Notice of a proposed amendment to Kansas FCE Bylaws

To seek approval at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting

Currently reads: ARTICLE V, SECTION 5 Duties of Officers, E ---

Submit a written report of the most recent quarterly financial statement to the Annual Business Meeting.

Amend ARTICLE V, SECTION 5 Duties of Officers, E by

Delete the words “most recent quarterly”, Replace with the words “year-to-date”

Inserting “members at” between the words “to” and “the”

If adopted ARTICLE V, SECTION 5 Duties of Officers, E shall read:

Submit a written report of the year-to-date financial statement to members at the Annual Business Meeting.

Rational: to clarify that each member in attendance will receive a printed copy of the financial statement. And to make a copy of both the proposed budget and financial statement for each member in attendance.

National FCE

National FCE President Bonnie Teeples: An email was sent to all National FCE members with an attachment of the June, 2026 issue of "*fce TODAY*". It is also available on the National website: <https://www.nafce.org/fce-today-and-flash-newsletters>. Also, on the website, all the registration and information of the 2026 National Conference: <https://www.nafce.org/national-conference-info-and-pictures>

National FCE Secretary DeLores Walden: It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the National FCE Secretary. I have learned a lot and will learn more as the year goes along. The National FCE Board meets almost every month by Zoom. I am responsible for those minutes. There will be three meetings at the conference in which I will take minutes. If you have any questions about National FCE, please email me, and I will find the answer for you. The National FCE educational committee will be presenting four lessons at the conference.

Public Policy Coordinator Sharon Giacometti: There will be National Bylaw changes, and new lessons coming out at the 2026 National FCE Conference.

The Legacy Committee – Dorene Reimer: In 2014, the National FCE established a long term fund as an investment account that all members could donate to as they wished. After three years, by 2017, just over \$31,000 was in this account. The 2017 Conference then established the Legacy Fund with a new bylaws article that would establish an endowment to help support National FCE in the future.

National FCE members were appointed to this Legacy Committee. From that time on, the funds have been growing through interest and contributions. Last year, in July of 2025, the fund had just over \$94,000. This year, in March of 2026, the fund has \$113,600. Bonnie Teeples is the new National FCE President, and a new Legacy Committee has been appointed.

The Committee will keep working to better establish the fund and give direction as to its use. If anyone or group wants to donate to the Legacy Fund, go to their website www.nafce.org and find the proper papers to fill out and make a donation.

Future of FCE Committee – Dorene Reimer: This committee was established as a temporary committee to help plan and direct the coming 90th Anniversary of National FCE in 2026 at the National Conference. Among other tasks, we chose an item to represent 90 years and the colors that would represent the celebration-granite (silver) and sapphire rhinestones. It was concluded to design a pin of blue rhinestones to make available for members to purchase. Only 50 of them were purchased, so I encourage any who might want one, to get your claim in early! I think I know those women well enough that they will go quickly!

Other things like table decorations, glass ware, etc. were decided, which completed this committee's work, so it was dissolved on January 1, 2026.

Stay Update about the 2026 Kansas FCE Conference Send us a request to be added to our **Kansas FCE Conference Info & Atchison Happenings** email list. Send an email to: fcedestinationatchisonconference@yahoo.com and you will be added to our weekly emails.. Please share your name, unit and county in your request. Emails will start the week of July 6. Learn about Conference details and updates , places to eat, sites to see, and more. Also, if you have questions about conference, send an email.

74th Annual Kansas FCE Conference Program

Soaring To New Heights With FCE

October 6-8, 2026

First Presbyterian Church (302 N 5th Street) Atchison, Kansas



Kansas Association For
Family & Community Education

We promised to plan a FCE conference to make memories to last a lifetime!

Conference Purpose: To promote Kansas Association for Family and Community Education (Kansas FCE) programs, broaden Kansan's perspectives, celebrate achievements, present awards, provide leadership directions, share National FCE Updates, conduct the annual Kansas FCE business, elect officers and provide opportunities to connect with other FCE members.

Conference Headquarters: **First Presbyterian Church:** (302 N 5th Street, 913-367-2072;) Just 3 blocks from the hotel. Parking available behind church. **Conference begins noon-October 7.** Main entrance off the parking lot. Elevator inside. Use QR scan code on next page for additional conference details. Wheelchair ramp available.

Conference Hotel: **Atchison Holiday Inn Express:** (401 Main Street, Direct Line: 913-674-0033) **NEW Reserve your room on the Conference Registration form.** **NO RESERVATION CALL REQUIRED.** Hotel will match your roommate list and special requests to create your initial registration. (More details with your confirmation email.) **Quicker, easy check-in:** You will receive your room key after normal check-in process. **Receive special conference rate of \$149 per room + taxes.** Rooms sleep 1 - 4. **Room rate until Sept 15.** Rate includes hot breakfast, 24 hour freshly brewed coffee, in room refrigerator, exercise room and pool. Check-in starting at 3:00 pm. Overflow rooms at the Quality Inn. You are welcome to book other hotels or book directly but **NOT** at the conference rate. Rooms are limited in the community.



Phone Numbers: Amy Masters: 785-741-2490; amymasters403@gmail.com; Kathy Tharman: Ext. Office 785-985-3623; Diane Nielson 913-488-5179; fcedestinationatchisonconference@yahoo.com; **Amberwell Hospital:** 913-367-2131.

Conference Registration & Confirmation: Complete conference registration form including payment. **Registrations postmarked by Sept. 10, receive the Early Bird Rate.** Registrations accepted until September 25. When registering close to deadline; call to confirm. If registering **after Sept. 25, call regarding possible attendance; meals may not be available.** Email confirmation sent to each registrant with conference schedule and hotel confirmation. (Refer to Conference Hotel above.)

Late Registration/Cancellation Refunds: Registrations postmarked **AFTER** September 10, 2026, will pay the Regular Rate and make own hotel reservations. There are **NO Refunds** after September 10, except for major medical emergencies or the death of an immediate family member. However, after September 10, the registration fee can be transferred to another attendee. **Conference registrations will be accepted until September 25, 2026, , but cannot be guaranteed meals and the lodging reservations are the responsibility of attendee.** **NOTE:** If a tour or a special session is cancelled, other available options can be selected, or a refund will be issued.

Meals: The Registration fee pays the meals of October 7's luncheon and banquet and of October 8's luncheon. Please specify any special dietary needs when registering.

Conference Check-In Our flight crew will be available at the hotel and the church to assist you. Pick up nametag, schedule, driving directions to Welcome Event and conference bag at the church. 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Tuesday & Wednesday; 8:30 - 11:00 am Thursday.

Conference Welcome Event, October 6: *Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum & Dessert Bar. Come and Go from 6:00 to 8:30 pm* Nationally rated museum admission (\$13). Enjoy a dessert bar even without the museum tour. Limited seating Trolley departs from hotel lobby starting from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Return trip from museum to hotel begins at 7:00. Find driving directions to 16701 286th Rd. Atchison in the conference bag.

Display Tables: Tables **MUST** be reserved by **Sept. 25**. **Contact:** DeLores Walden, 785-379-0666; wintersdj1@cox.net

Prizes by the Yard: Each unit or County Council is asked to provide a basket or item (\$20 value) for a drawing. Attendees buy a yard of tickets for \$10 or a single ticket for a \$1. Last year over \$850 was raised to help support two \$1000 Kansas FCE Scholarships. Drawings held Thursday morning.

Peace & Patchwork In The Pews Quilt Show: Join Kansas FCE members showcasing their talents, displaying vintage FCE or family quilts in church sanctuary. **Quilt Show Labels** available at quilt check-in on Tuesday 8:30-5:30 and Wednesday morning until 11 am.

Think Big, Act Small FCE Community Service *Developing early literacy skills put preschoolers on the path to success.* **Hearth Fire Series 40:** Books, the Other Channel **Stitch Times:** **Tuesday** noon-5:00 pm; **Wednesday** 9 - 11 am; 4 - 4:30 pm. This year's conference adds a new community service project. Drop off donations of craft/school supply collections and books when you check-in. Join the effort, pick up supplies to stitch together a Christmas stocking to keep your hands busy while chatting with FCE friends. Completed packages will be shared with each area to deliver to a location of their choice. Working together, FCE members can think big about literacy. At home, each of our small contributions encourages *literacy skills development* in local communities across Kansas.



Tours, Special Interest Sessions & More: **All day Oct 6 & Morning Oct 7** Read descriptions about tours, special interest sessions, make-n-takes, scavenger hunt, shopping & more information in this newsletter.

See more details on Kansas FCE web site: kafce.org or by scanning (open the phone's camera) the QR code. This action will generate an ULR for a website. Click the wording (ULR) on your phone's screen then watch information appear. Once that website (kafce.org) is open, click on the 2026 Conference Tab. We will be sharing additional conference information using scan codes. **All tours leave from the church parking lot, please arrive 15 minutes ahead of scheduled departure time.** It is possible to register for multiple tours as schedule allows for delays of earlier tours. **All Special Interest and Make-n-Take Sessions will be held at the church.** Be sure mark your choices for tours and special sessions on the registration form. Any conference questions regarding, text/call Diane Nielson 913-488-5179.

Tour A: Historic Rail Depot & History Trolley October 6, 9:00 am (2 hours); **Fee: \$15** includes museum admission and guided trolley tour. **Stop 1:** Atchison, Topeka & Santa Railroad Freight Depot, Home of **Atchison County Historical Society Museum**. **Stop 2:** Ride narrated tour of historic sites on the **Atchison History Trolley Tour**

Tour B: International Forest of Friendship & Historic Mt. Vernon Cemetery October 6, 11:00 am (2.5 hours); **Fee: \$15** includes an outdoor box lunch Dress casually and wear comfortable walking shoes **Stop 1 International Forest of Friendship** See trees from around the world and a salute to aviators. **Stop 2 Historic Mt. Vernon Cemetery** Impressive monuments and history.

Homes Tours **Select one of the choices below.** *Tours offer video viewing for those unable to navigate stairs.* The fee for each tour includes admission and guides. For added fun, make reservations for an optional afternoon tea. Text Diane 913-488-5179 for details by September 15.

Tour C: Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum & Muchnic Art Gallery October 6, 2:00 pm (2 hours) **Fee: \$18**

Tour D: Evah Cray Historical Home Museum & Muchnic Art Gallery October 6, 3:00 pm (2 hours) **Fee: \$18**

Tour E: All 3 homes October 6, 2:00 pm (3 hours) Tour all 3 homes for a savings. **Fee: \$30.**

Tour F: Benedictine College Library & St. Benedict's Abbey October 7, 9:00 am (2 hours) **Fee: \$5. Stop 1 Benedictine College Library.** New library with replica of the Independence Hall Assembly Room and interactive

Humanities Kansas display of *Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy*. **Stop 2 St. Benedict's Abbey** art work & Frank Lloyd Wright inspired St. Benedict's Abbey Church including frescoes by artist Jean Charlot.

Tour H6 & H7: Exclusive FCE Haunted Trolley Some say Atchison is the most haunted town in Kansas. October 6 or 7 at 9:00 pm (1 hour) **Fee: \$15.00.** Departure time from the hotel lobby may be adjusted due to prior FCE events being extended. Limited seating.

Special Sessions: Pull up a chair, listen & learn. Demonstrations, discussions and doing can describe the topics of the day. Refer to the Conference Registration form to reserve your seat. But don't worry, last minute sign-up at Conference Registration Desk check-in can be made.

#1: What I Wish I Had Known About Junk Journaling

October 6, 11 am; **Fee: \$3** Junk journaling is more than just crafting—it's a way to preserve memories, express creativity, help reduce stress and transform ordinary scraps into something extraordinary. The term "junk" can be misleading—it's not about trash, but about giving overlooked materials a second life. This session will provide practical advice.

#2: What I Wish I Had Known About Junk Journaling (Repeat) October 6, 1:00 pm **Fee: \$3**

#3: Rustic Fall Centerpiece – Make-N-Take October 6, 2:00 pm **Fee: \$10** Pumpkins are not just for Halloween. Show off your love of fall by crafting rustic pumpkins and adding a scarecrow to create a centerpiece to enjoy.

#4: Getting To Know Amelia October 6, 1:00 pm **Fee: \$3** We know Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison. It where she spent her early childhood years. Earhart is known around the world for her aviation achievements. But her story is much larger than her fame and tragic last flight, come meet Amelia.

#5: It's OK To Love All Bees - Including Honey Bees October 6, 3:00 pm **Fee: \$3** North America's bee populations are in trouble, but don't blame the honey bees. Bees help farmers grow the foods people love to eat, everything from apples to zucchini. Learn the tricks that are sweeter than honey about beekeeping in this session.

#6: It's OK To Love All Bees - Including Honey Bees (Repeat) Oct 6, 4:00 pm **Fee: \$3**

#7: Barn Quilts October 7, 9:00 am **Fee: \$5** includes handouts. Join Virginia Foley and Carol Lintner as they share the history of Barn Quilts. They have taught dozens of Barn Quilt classes and will demonstrate the step by step process of making a Barn Quilt.

While this class does not allow enough time to make your own quilt, you will leave feeling comfortable starting your quilt!

#8: FCE Officer Round Table October 7, 10:00 am **Free with snacks.** Stop by to say hello and get to know your officer team. Have a question about the Annual Business Meeting, elections, Bylaws, budget or other items on the agenda; let us chat. Think you might want to volunteer, to write an FCE lesson or to share a lesson topic idea, we will be here to listen. Considering taking your FCE leadership skills to next level; your FCE officers will answer your questions.

#9: Personalized Kitchen Towels Make-N-Take Oct 7, 10:00 am **Fee: \$10** for 2 towels. Additional towels may be available for purchase. Members of Harmony FCE are excited to offer a creative craft at this year's Annual Conference! Attendees will enjoy a fun stamp and stenciling activity, where you can personalize your own kitchen flour sack towel using inks and fabric paint. This hands-on project is a great way to express your creativity, and take home something useful and uniquely yours.

#10: Exploring War and Peace: A Look Behind the Scenes October 7, 10:00 am **Fee: \$3** Join retired Army Colonel Russell H. Thaden. He is a former military intelligence officer who served in five wars. During four of those wars, he was chief deputy or assistant deputy of intelligence. Russell will speak on the issues of war and peace in U.S history.

Self-Guided Options (More details at check-in)

#11: Tour Atchison FCE Scavenger Hunt

#12: Shopping. Riverfront. Cultural Center. Tea Time. Check your conference bag for more ideas

Please print clearly.

2026 Kansas FCE State Conference Registration Form

October 6–8, 2026

Atchison, Kansas

Print Name (For Name Tag) _____ FCE ID# _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Conference Confirmation Email Address: _____

Phone #: (C or H) _____ Text Message Confirm Y N Birth Month: _____

FCE Unit Name: _____; County: _____; Area (Mark) NE; SE; SW

SC; NW; SW

Affiliation (Mark ALL that apply) _____ FCE Member; _____ Non-Member; _____ FCS Advisor; _____

First Time Attending; _____

_____ Unit Officer; _____ Council Pres.; _____ State Board Member; _____ Past State Pres.; _____ Spouse; _____

NE Area Conference Volunteer; _____ Prizes by the Yard; _____ Hostess/Helper; _____ Plan to Display a

quilt. How many? # _____

Special Dietary Needs/Accommodations: _____

Kansas FCE Conference Registration Fees

Questions: Amy Masters - 785-741-2490; amymasters403@gmail.com Or Kathy Tharman - (Ext. Office) 785-985-3623

Registration Form Postmarked: (Mail can be delayed; contact to confirm sending.) Full Conference (w/3 Meals) Wednesday ONLY (w/2 Meals) Thursday ONLY (w/Luncheon Meal) Welcome Event (Museum Admission) + Desert Bar Pre-conference Tours/Special	By September 10th "Early Bird" Rate \$85 \$50 \$35 \$13 See below	Until September 25th Regular Rate \$100 \$70 \$50 \$13 See below	Total Amt. \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
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Checks payable to: **Kansas FCE Conference** Total Amount Due \$ _____
Mail Payment and Registration Form to: Doniphan Co. Extension, Atten: Kansas FCE Conference, P.O. 487, Troy, KS 66087 -0487

Tuesday, Oct. 6 Tours

_____ **A** Depot & History Trolley 9 am - \$15

_____ **B** Int'l Forest of Friendship & Mt. Vernon plus lunch 11 am - \$15

_____ **C** Homes: AE & Muchnic 2 pm - \$18

_____ **D** Homes: Muchnic & Cray 3 pm - \$18

_____ **E** Homes: All 3 homes 2 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 6 Special Sessions

_____ **#1** Journals 11 am - \$3

_____ **#2** Journals 1 pm - \$3

(Repeat)

_____ **#3** Fall Centerpiece MNT 2 pm - \$10

_____ **#4** Meet Amelia 1 pm - \$3

_____ **#5** Honey Bees 3 pm - \$3

_____ **#6** Honey Bees 4 pm - \$3

(Repeat)

Wednesday, Oct. 7 Tours

_____ **F** Benedictine Library/Abbey 9 am - \$5

_____ **H7** Haunted Trolley 9 pm - \$15

Wednesday, Oct 7 Special Sessions

_____ **#7** Barn Quilts 9 am - \$5

_____ **#8** Officer Roundtable 10 am - Free

_____ **#9** Kitchen Towels MNT 10 am - 2/\$10

Conference Hotel Registration for quick check-in & at the conference hotel room rate by Sept 15.

I want conference planners to make reservations at Atchison Holiday Inn Express for the following dates:

_____ M Oct 5; _____ T Oct 6; _____ W Oct 7; _____ TH Oct 8. Names of ALL Persons Staying in this Room:

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

List any special room requests: Wheelchair Access _____ Bed: Q K

_____ I plan to make my own lodging reservation without the conference hotel rate.

2026 Kansas FCE State Conference First-Timer Scholarship Application and Rules

The Kansas FCE Board of Directors offers up to five (5) scholarships to members who wish to attend the Kansas FCE State Conference for the first time. This \$85 scholarship covers the Early Bird Registration fee, all other expenses incurred are the winner's responsibility. Winners must attend the entire conference; otherwise, the scholarship is forfeited. It is non-transferable. Scholarship checks will be distributed to winners during the conference. Winners will be notified by September 30, 2026.

1. Be a current National/Kansas FCE dues-paying member.
2. Complete the 2026 Kansas FCE State Conference registration form and pay the \$85 "Early Bird" registration fee. **Postmarked submissions due by September 10, 2026.**
3. Mail all completed paperwork to: Kansas FCE Conference. % Doniphan County Extension Office, P.O. Box 487, Troy, KS 66087-0487.
4. Complete this First-Timer Application form and answer the qualifying questions listed below.
5. Following the guidelines below, report as gratification for your scholarship to be submitted to your Area FCE Council and/or *Kansas FCE News*.

Name _____

Membership ID# _____ County _____ Area _____

Unit Name (or Independent Member) _____ Membership Years _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Answer the following questions on one separate page (labeled with name and area):

1. Describe your community contributions and achievements in the last 5 years.
2. Identify significant FCE focus areas or issues and explain their importance. (Examples include health, home, community, environment, international affairs, leadership, youth engagement, community service, Hearth Fire literature and membership.)
3. Explain how you will share the knowledge gained at the conference with your unit members and community.

Provide a Report as Gratification for your Scholarship to your Area Council Fall Workshop and/or publish the report in the winter issue of the *Kansas FCE News*

- A. How did attending the conference impact your FCE involvement and benefit your Unit or community?
- B. Identify what you learned and what you did with that knowledge obtained at the Kansas FCE State Conference?
- C. How did you do/share this? (i.e. sharing in a group, doing a lesson?)
- D. How many did you reach? (Give a breakdown of FCE members and non-members reached.)
- E. Send pictures, if possible.

Check out the Conference Schedule Highlights. A complete schedule will be sent with the registration confirmation.

Tuesday, October 6

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Educational Displays/Quilt check-in: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Prizes By The Yard check-in: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Tours departures from church parking lot.

Special Interest Sessions & Make-n-Takes.

Prizes By Yard /Quilt Raffle Sales: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Conference Photo Booth 12:00 - 5:00 pm

On Your Own Options: Visit the Cultural Center. Shopping. Scavenger hunt & more. Mount St. Scholastica Monastery's Chapels house of exquisite blue stained-glass windows. **By Sept. 15, request details or reserve self-tour; Or an afternoon tea lunch. Text/call Diane, 913-488-5179.**

Lunch and Evening Meals On Your Own

Soaring To New Heights With FCE Welcoming Event

at the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

Come-n-Go Dessert Bar and Museum. . Limited seating
Trolley departs from hotel lobby

Haunted Trolley Ride (H6) depart 9:00 pm, Hotel lobby.

Limited Seating. Must purchase a ticket.

Smores with FCE Friends Hotel, 9 - 10 pm *Free.*

Wednesday, October 7

Inspiration From Amelia: 8:27 - 9 am (Optional).

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Think Big, Act Small Community Service Supplies

Check-in & Stocking Stitching: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Group: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

FCE Displays Set Up: 9:00 - 10:00 am

FCE Officer Round Table: Q & A, 10:00 am

Tours departures from church parking lot.

Special Interest Sessions & Make-n-Takes.

Peace & Patchwork In The Pews Quilt Show 10:00 am – close, Church Sanctuary, (Accept quilts until 11 am).

FCE Conference Begins at Noon

Soup & Salad Luncheon

"Learning To Soar By Failing Forward" LaRochelle Young, Keynote Speaker & Atchison Mayor

Annual Business Meeting: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Think Big Act Small Community Service Project: 4:00 pm
Decorating With Presley Pierce: 4:30 pm

Banquet & Awards: 6:20 pm, (PowerPoint of FCE Members/Awardees)

Musical Entertainment

Haunted Trolley Ride (H7): depart 9:00 pm, Hotel lobby. *Limited Seating. Must purchase a ticket*

Smores with FCE Friends Hotel: 9 - 10 pm *Free*

Thursday, October 8

Inspiration From Amelia: 8:27 – 9:00 am (Optional).

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 – 11:00 am

Prizes by Yard Bidding: 8:30-10 am

FCE Workshops-Classrooms:

Choice 1: 9 - 9:50 am;

Choice 2: 10:10 - 11:00 am

Celebrating 90 Years of FCE: Let's Party

Installation of New Officers & Recognition of Outgoing Officers: 11:30 am

Birthday Party Luncheon (Seating by birth month listed on registration.) *Look At What We Have Done: 90 Years of FCE -From Glenwood Canning Club to 2026 FCE PowerPoint (Created from pictures shared by members from Today and Yesterday.)*

Prizes by Yard Winners Announced

Tumbleweeds, Talent & FCE in Kansas Communities Ron Wilson, Humanities Kansas Keynote Speaker

Homeward Flight Soaring Across Kansas

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KAFCE News is published March, June, and November.

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

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

2026 National and Kansas FCE Dates to Remember

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/September	Kansas State EPC Leadership Training
September 4-13	Kansas State Fair
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)