

WINTER ISSUE 2025



The Messenger

Newsletter of the Eastern Region Family and Community Education

Website: Eastern.Tennessee.edu, then Click on **Family and Consumer Science**

Facebook: **Eastern Region FCE**

A note from your Eastern Region President- Cindy Mishtal

What an amazing year we have had as Family, Community and Education leaders. I cannot believe 2024 is over. Thank you all for the hard work and dedication you have s n to your club, counties and Eastern Region. You all need to pat yourself on your back, for a Job Well Done.

I want to THANK YOU for all the support, kindness, patience and participation you showed me during my 2 years as Eastern Region President. I am so proud of how our region has grown in leadership and I know we will continue to grow in 2025.

When you receive your planner for 2025, please look over all the different ways you and your clubs can serve. We continue to be wonderful about keeping up our Certified Volunteer Units (CVU) and our 50-year members, however, we need to be more diligent in getting our region involved in the other areas too. We have training which is called Family and Community

Leadership Training (FCL.) Also, please check out the Best of the Best nomination form and surprise someone by nominating them. National Association FCE has a Spirit of FCL Award which is given to 1 person per state. That would be Awesome if someone from the Eastern Region won. There are so many ways for us to honor and so our gratitude to those who have truly worked hard over the years for FCE. The State and Eastern Region Board Members will be listed in your planner with their position being held, names, addresses, email along with phone numbers. We no longer put names on the forms, only what position they hold to tell you who to send it to.

**** Make sure you read the forms fully and MAKE COPIES of them prior to mailing them to the correct Board Member.**

I am positive you will be thrilled with your new Team Leaders for 2025. Remember, you too can be one of them. I really loved serving on the

Eastern Region Board and will still be on it for one more year.

May God Bless you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Cindy Mishtal TAFCE ER

President

cmishtal@comcast.net

423-462-4924

Voting Delegates from TAFCE Conference





Thank You from the Incoming President - Marti Agler

Thank you to TAFCE Eastern Region members for your confidence in electing me as President of the Regional Board for the 2025-26 term. I will make every effort to reward that vote by moving the organization forward.

Our greatest challenge and the major effort of my term in office will be to stabilize AND grow our membership. Ours is an organization with much to offer our communities and it is my duty to lead a campaign to communicate that to the general public.

To that end, we will spend a fair amount of time at our Spring Event developing and creating a plan to move FCE upward in the Eastern Region of Tennessee. Please plan to attend that session with lots of ideas to create consistent, clear talking points we can all use to recruit members and retain those we have now. Marketing will be key to that effort. Do you have skills in that area? If so, please step forward and offer them for the good of FCE!

Again, thank you! See you in April in Roane County!

Ella Parker-VP of Public Policy

With Christmas quickly approaching, I hope everyone has received or will receive a 2025 Calendar/Planner! Calendars serve many purposes; at a glance, a person can tell what the date is and if they have anything scheduled for that date and can also check this in advance. For an FCE member it can also serve as a fantastic place to record CVUs. This keeps all your records in one place and easy to compile at the end of the year when it is necessary to turn them in. Reporting your hours is not considered bragging but gives recognition to our FCE to be used in receiving Grant monies to be used to further the outreach of our programs.

Eastern Region had a much better report for 2024 than for 2023. Let us try to have a record breaking 2025. Because of the CVU hours turned in by Eastern, Central , and Western Regions this year we were recognized by Epsilon Sigma Phi, The Extension Professionals' Organization, with the ESP 2024 Friend of Extension Business/Organization award. This is a national award and was presented at the NAFCE Convention earlier this year.

Congratulations!!! Keep up the "Good Work" by helping other people in your communities with your Volunteer Hours. Without our help, many organizations would not be able to offer the services they can provide.



Tammy Halliburton - Cultural Arts

Hello Friends,

It was wonderful to see the turn out of the Eastern Region at the TAFCE Conference.

Congratulations to all the winners.

It is important to review the rules for entering articles in Culture Arts. The rules listed on the category form have not changed. I would like to expand on rule number 15. **ALL EXHIBITORS MUST BE TAFCE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.** Every year when the county sends in cultural arts winners to the region, the cultural arts chair sends the list of county winners to the treasurer. The treasurer will check to make sure they are a PAID member. If the exhibitor is not a paid member, then the exhibitor will not be able to compete in the regional competition. The treasurer and cultural arts chair in a last-minute scramble contact the county and give the exhibitor a chance to compete by paying. It is not our desire to disqualify anyone. But on the other hand, we need to keep the competition fair. I am asking the counties do a double check to make sure all exhibitors are PAID members. It is easy to let someone slip by when they start attending meetings after the dues were paid in September.

Happy Crafting and looking for to seeing you work in the fall.

Treasury Notes from Marti Agler

Welcome to winter! Does it HAVE to be cold??? By the time you read this, our Financial Year will have ended. A few highlights: We were successful with our Flood Relief Fund, raising \$8,515 plus \$300 in Apple Gift Cards plus a \$25 Master Card Gift Card. In addition, we received 30 blankets and quilts, 100 child and adult pillowcases (for bags), and 1 bag of winter clothes; we ended the year at breakeven (the year-end statement will be provided after 1/1); and ALL our Regional Events paid for themselves! Thank You!!

The Proposed Budget based on 600 members was approved at the Annual Member Meeting at State Conference, That Budget will be a challenge since we have renewed for 2025 at 419 members (at least two counties have still to report).

To address that challenge, a goodly portion of our Spring Event will be a Brain Storming session of identifying common talking points and themes to share with the entire region to use in member retention and recruitment. This idea came from a member in Roane County, thank you! If you have a member in your county with experience in Marketing, PR, Advertising, or a related field, please send them our way! We will need help developing this campaign and welcome all help! Since we are members, we must think the organization is of value, the trick is to communicate that to others consistently.

Thank you for electing me to serve as your Financial Officer for the last four years. I hope I have been able to establish some procedures that can make TAFCE Eastern Region's financial affairs transparent to all members. We serve on the Regional Board at your pleasure and are always aware of our responsibility to you.

Treasury Notes from Patricia Malbrough

Hello! Let me introduce myself. I am Pat Malbrough and I live in Monroe County. I am your 2025-2026 Eastern Region Treasurer.

I have been a member of TAFCE for almost 5 years. I served 2 years as President of the Callie Cobb club in Monroe County and just recently as the treasurer of Monroe County.

I have been retired for almost 7 years, but my profession was a Mortgage Loan Officer for various banks and credit unions in south Louisiana. My husband of 20 years and I used to ride motorcycles in the Great Smoky Mountains and that is why we retired up here (my friends say we are the only ones they know to move NORTH to retire!) LOL I gave up riding, so now we have a Mazda Miata convertible!

I look forward to working with all of the county treasurers in the Eastern Region these next two years.

Midway Club, Sevier County Christmas Display at Library

The husband of our deceased, much-loved member, Suzanne Newman, allowed the club to use some of Suzanne's collection of nativity scenes for our December display at the King Family Library, Sevierville. Thank you, Tom, for your generosity in allowing us to share something of our friend for this display.



Midway Club, Sevier County Happenings

Sevier County FCE was pleased to help with several community events during the summer. We manned a booth at the Sevier County Fair with crafts for kids (and adults) to create and take home. Member Cheryl Coss designed a coloring sheet to meet the Fair theme of “Livestockin’, Rides Rockin’, Crowds Flockin’!”, member Judy Leatherman decorated the booth (not an easy task with that theme!), and members staffed the area to spread the word about FCE and UT Extension services.

The Sevier County FCE Council sponsors the “Best in Show” rosette and award for the Youth Floral Division in the Sevier County Fair. This year’s winner was an Herb Garden entered by Simon Eslinger in the 3d to 5th grade class. Council President, Marti Agler, was pleased to award him a \$50 premium to accompany the rosette. Keep gardening, Simon!

Our Council was asked to provide a member to serve on the Coalition for TNCEP (Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program) in Sevier County, Tracey Smith stepped forward and has been a wonderful asset on that advisory board and in bringing FCE to the attention of the other members. FCE members manned the tables for a summer-long food giveaway to Sevier County children through a USDA Grant gained by the Boys and Girls Club. We also served as volunteers for a Health Fair at Mountain Shepherd Good Hope Clinic. As we have come to expect, both these events took place on some of the hottest days of the year!



Sevier County FCE members (l-r) Cheryl Coss, Birgitt Tischer-Pocock, and Judy Pat Williams “enjoy” the hot weather sharing 7-day shelf-stable food packages with Sevier County kids.

Eastern Region Flood Relief Fund Delivery



l-r Lori Carvell, Johnson County FCE; Cindy Mishtal, Eastern Region Outgoing President; Sophia Bailey, Recipient, Johnson County; Millie Hanson, Recipient, Washington County; Marti Agler, Eastern Region Incoming President; Kathy Ransom, President, Johnson County FCE

When the floods devastated our East Tennessee neighbors in September, TAFCE Eastern Region moved quickly to determine the status of our members and UT Extension employees in the affected counties. At the Regional Board meeting in October, the Board pledged \$1,000 of unused budgeted funds to begin a Flood Relief Fund for our FCE and UT Extension families.

Thanks to FCE members, clubs, and councils across the state, we collected \$8,515, \$325 in gift cards, 30 quilts and blankets (Houston County), 100 pillowcases (Bedford County), 3 heaters (Sevier County), and 1 bag of warm clothes (Houston County). On Tuesday,

December 16, President Cindy Mishtal, Treasurer Marti Agler, and members of the Johnson County FCE Clubs delivered all items.

Fortunately for the FCE Family, no one had significant losses. Checks were presented to two UT Extension Employees who sustained devastating losses: Sophia Bailey, 4-H Agent, Johnson County and Millie Hanson, Administrative Assistant, Washington County. The goods were donated to Hometown Donation & Distribution Center, Mountain City, TN. This is what we are!

Kathy Reece, Director, Hometown Donation & Distribution Center receiving donated goods.



HELP WANTED -TAFCE Eastern Region Board Position

There is an opening on your Regional Board for a VP of Programs. This position serves as the liaison between the Board and hosting counties to present our three scheduled Regional Events: Spring Event, Leadership Day, and Fall Conference. If you have experience with and love putting on parties, this is the job for you! Contact Eastern Region President, Marti Agler for more detailed information. We need your skills!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

50 YEAR MEMBERS

The best congratulations to the 2024 50 Year Members from our Eastern Region:

Peggy Evans, Cumberland County

Nancy Martin, Campbell County

Thank you so much for 50 years of loyalty to our organization. The stories you could tell all of us about how FCE has changed and matured in your 50 years!

We applaud and appreciate both of you

TAFCE Mission Statement

To strengthen the home and community by improving the quality of life of individuals and families through continuing education, leadership development, and community service.