

SPRING ISSUE 2025



The Messenger

Eastern Region

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 President: Marti Agler

Happy 2025 and Welcome Spring! Thank you so much for your confidence in electing me to be the leader of our group for a few years. You are used to me nagging as the Treasurer and now you can get it from another direction! Lucky you!

Your elected board members and appointed committee chair have been hard at work planning the events and direction Eastern Region will take for the next few years. We are so fortunate to have such cooperation from the County Councils in having our joint events throughout the region and allowing us to enjoy so many communities in our area. Thank you to all our hosting counties this year: Roane, Fentress, and Sullivan for events and Meigs, Sevier, and Monroe hosting Board Meetings.

Our first joint event will be our “Spring into FCE” in Roane County. By the time you read this, you will have the Registration Form and are busily completing and mailing, right?!?! This is going to be a pivotal meeting for us. We intend to develop common talking points, definitions, elevator speeches, etc., to assist all of us in explaining why folks we meet should join FCE. Membership will be our watchword going forward and we intend to help each other increase it and share the good news about our program.

In the midst of that serious topic, we will listen to some great music, shop (always), try some new crafts and, BIG DEAL, choose the themes we will present to the TAFCE Board to title the 2026 State Conference we will host. Please bring your best ideas for that (more nagging on that elsewhere in this newsletter).

See everybody in Kingston April 29! Stay safe!

News from Campbell County- Sharon Schmitt-Matzen

In January the Well Springs FCE Club took pride in honoring Nancy Martin for 50 years as a dedicated member. Nancy has a passion for helping others in the community by donating food, clothing, and other essentials to those in need. She enjoys using her artistic talents to teach various crafts to the ladies and gentlemen each week at the Tuesday Morning Coffee Chat. Over the years she has garnered numerous regional and state first place ribbons for her entries in the Creative Arts Contest. In addition, she works faithfully with her church by setting up and preparing meals, assisting with VBS, and helping to teach the children. She is a friendly, strong, and vital influence in the FCE Club.

Campbell County Honors 50 Year Member



News from Bledsoe County: Betty Beene

Another year has come and gone and FCE members are looking forward to 2025.

The awards luncheon is the first big even on our calendar for 2025. The luncheon will be a covered dish with a tea cup auction following lunch.

Brayton and Mountain Top FCE clubs are both receiving master club awards, for earning 160 or more points.

Women of the Year as being honored are:

- Linda Shell- Brayton FCE Club
- Terry Straubel- Mountain Top FCE Club

We are looking forward to attending the Regional FCE Spring Event, April 29 at the Kingston Community Center.

Note from Tammy Halliburton- Cultural Arts Chair

Hello Friends,

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The earth laughs in flowers.” On the Plateau the flowers are getting ready to giggle. I can not wait for the earth to be in full bloom!

Research has shown that crafting, regardless of the medium you use, can bolster mood, improve self-confidence, and reduce stress overall. Crafting has also shown to improve mental agility, improves fine and gross motor movements and decrease congestive decline. So People, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!!! Get Busy.

I would like to clear up some fake news. If you have a craft you want to enter into the region competition but sadly you can not make it to the Fall Conference; please by all means send it with a friend you trust. You do not have to be present. The rule was changed a few years ago to encourage crafting. But make no mistake, you will be missed.

To the Counties: Please make sure that all entries are by a ***PAID*** member of FCE. This will make my job easier. When I receive the county winners list, I send the name to the Region Treasurer to make sure they are a paid member. If they have not paid the dues for the current year then the item unfortunately is disqualified. BUT they can pay and the item will be accepted. I know sometimes things fall through the cracks. We take dues

up in September and a new person come in January and we forget to collect dues. This is all fixable with phone calls and a check.

For Your Information: The county(s) hosting the fall event will get the judges for our event. Here is a list of things the judges are asked to look for when judging.

1. **Selection of materials.** Appropriate for the project, color combination, texture and shapes all work together for the project.
2. **Originality.** Does the craft capture attention, shows imaginative use of materials and ideas.
3. **Quality of workmanship.** Neatness, good use of technique.
4. **Overall presentation.** Appropriately finished, balance, harmony, first impressions, and is the design related to intended use.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them my way. Also, keep in mind that my term is up in December. ARE YOU THE NEXT CULTURAL ART CHAIR??? Say yes to the position. It is a lot of fun plus you get to meet experts in crafting across the region.

News from Monroe County- Pat Malbrough

Last month the Callie Cobb club in Monroe County brought over 100 toys to the dogs at the Monroe County Animal Shelter. They were very happy to see us and we enjoyed touring the new shelter. We also brought some much-needed supplies.

Ladies, it's almost Springtime! Longer days, warmer temperatures, trees and flowers blooming AND Eastern Region's Spring into FCE gathering!! Hope to see everyone there. Monroe County has made some beautiful wreaths that will be for sale in the Boutique!! I'm sure you will want to buy more than one! See you there.

News from Ella Parker – VP of Public Policy

After last year's zero participation from the Eastern Region in the FCL classes, I am pleased to announce that we have four participants this year: Sandy Hill from McMinn County, and Pat Malbrough, Tammy Miller, and Donna Roberts from Monroe County. These ladies will gain new insights and methods for presenting leadership, communications, working with groups, issue analysis, community affairs, public policy, volunteerism, and teaching to current and future FCE members. Congratulations to all!

As the TAFCE Chairperson for Cultural Arts, I encourage everyone to create and enter items in local, regional, and state competitions. There are many categories in Cultural Arts, I'm sure you can find something you are interested in!

Greetings from the FCE of Roane County- Lisa McMshsn

Small in number but mighty in heart!

We have some exciting things to talk about at FCE council. Joann Silva is a 50-year member!! Please congratulate her when you see her! That is a big deal!



We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Spring into FCE spring event on April 29th. We are doing our best to make it a beautiful and memorable event. The food is going to be delicious; the newly remodeled Kingston Community Center will be nice to show off, and we even have a surprise for you all to keep you entertained! We truly hope that you all can come and celebrate with us.

See you soon!

News from Sevier County- Marti Agler

One of the ways Sevier County FCE is allowed to serve their community is by maintaining a display cabinet outside the History Center at the Main Library of the Sevier County Library System.

The display just removed was “Snowy Valentines”.



That was recently replaced by “Welcome Spring”.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Conference Theme Contest

The contest is NOT, NOT for the prettiest poster or tri-fold.

While the beauty of the display is of interest, what really matters is if we (that means you) can execute the theme and that it is applicable to FCE councils, clubs, and members.

Think in terms of decorations, printed matter, signage, etc. Can we do it? Does it fit? Will it make sense to attendees?

Did you include a suggested logo to use for the conference (remember the 2023 butterflies representing "Spread Your Wings with FCE")?

Of course, showing off Eastern Region should be taken into account!

Make sure your county presents their best ideas (can do more than one per county).

Conference Theme contest that the themes for the last several years' conferences are listed on the Eastern Region Facebook.

Good Luck to All!

Mark Your Calendars for the
TAFCE Eastern Region Leadership
Day
June 23 in Beautiful Fentress
County

There are four confirmed, experienced FCE leaders to help you with right now, hands on information you can take right back to help understand and operate the FCE Councils and Clubs in your county.

Good Stuff! Join us for this important event!

Grainger County FCE Emergency Preparedness Day

Grainger County FCE Club EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Everyone is welcome

Learn what it takes to be prepared for emergency situations, fire, flood, weather related warnings, and how to ready your "I GOT THIS BAG".

Speakers:

Randy Holt,
Grainger Co 911 Director
Jeremy Gordon
State Farm Ins. Agent



April 10, 2025 1:30 pm

Ag Pavillion located at 280 Bryan Road,
behind Rutledge Middle School.

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