

SUMMER 2026



# *The Messenger*

Newsletter of the Eastern Region Family and Community Education

Website: [Eastern.Tennessee.edu](http://Eastern.Tennessee.edu), then Click on **Family and Consumer Science**

Facebook: **Eastern Region FCE**

## **A note from your Eastern President: Marti Agler**

We hope all who attended the Spring Event left with some great memories, new crafts items, and a better insight into our Eastern Region of TAFCE and how we can manage ourselves in the future.

We have supplied all Council Presidents and Treasurers with the information on the Marketing Campaign we launched at the Spring Event. The business cards and paragraph cheat sheet should be copied and distributed to all members for their use in recruiting prospective members and acquainting our communities with FCE and what we are all about. Posters, newsletters, articles, etc. should include the language provided. This consistent messaging throughout our region should serve to brand us and solidify our image in the Eastern Region.

Our next regional event will be the FCE Day at the TVA Fair in Knoxville. The poster will be ready shortly for distribution to all members. We will be making Veterans' Day Cards to give the veterans at the VA Hospital in Johnson City. We aim to include a small gift card for a quick meal in each card. Please remember to donate cash or gift cards to assist this important gifting. After all, we would not have a 250<sup>th</sup> birthday for the USA if it were not for those who served our country through the years.

Immediately after that, on September 22, is our Fall Event for the Cultural Arts and Fashion Review competitions. In lieu of a program, we will be filling the "Poke Sacks" for the state conference. If your county has not already, please let any board member know what you will be supplying. Remember, items with utility value only and NOT from any bank!

Thank you for all you do to make TAFCE Eastern Region the best!

## 2026 Regional Scholarship Recipients

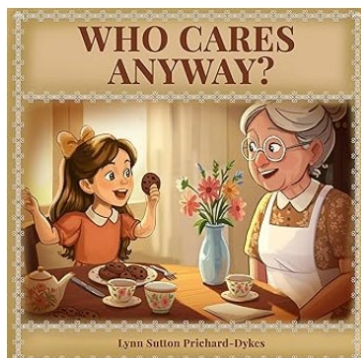
The Eastern Region is happy to present scholarships to two graduating 4-H members. Katie Barnette has graduated from Daniel Boone High School in Sullivan County, has been a 4-Her for 10 years, and will be attending Walters State Community College for an Associates Degree in Animal Science Behavior and then to UT to take a degree in Ag Education Communication. Katie attended the Eastern Region Spring Event and was presented a check for \$500 and the well-wishes of the membership of the Eastern Region.

Lily Plemons has graduated from Walker Valley High School in Bradley County with a GPA of 4.0, has been in 4-H for 9 years, and will attend York St. John University to study Linguistics. She will be presented her check when a mutually convenient time can be found.

These scholarships are some of the best uses of our regional funds and are a joy to present. Congratulations to both these wonderful young ladies and best wishes for their higher education journeys! They represent some of the best of 4-H!

### A note from Union County- Becky Warwick, Author

Our Union County FCE member and author had her book promoted on a jumbotron in New York City's Time Square on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A trailer for her book was played at the fifth minute every hour for 24 hours. The author of the book is Lynn Sutton Prichard-Dykes and the title of the book is *Who Cares Anyway*. It is a children's book about a five-year-old girl that slowly learns that manners are more than rules. They are a way to show love, respect, and care for the people around us. Congratulations to Lynn.



## A note from Bledsoe County- Linda Shell, President

### Great news from Bledsoe County FCE

It's been an extremely busy time here in Bledsoe for the FCE, and very productive! As some of you know, losing your leader suddenly by death can be devastating, but thanks to the help of Eastern Region officers and our friends from neighboring Cumberland County FCE we are back on track to have a great year! The most exciting thing that has started is our new membership blitz! Watch us grow!

I'm including some photos of recent events, new member poster placed all over town, member-made flowers and cards for 5 school librarians, fashion revue hits, and our fun Derby hat day!

Come visit anytime!!!



**You are invited!**

- Serve the local community
- Learn practical and creative skills
- Participate in meaningful local events
- Build friendships

The Bledsoe County FCE is a community of people who are deeply about strengthening homes, families, and neighborhoods.

***Interested in getting involved?***

***Reach out and visit a meeting to see what FCE is all about.***

***We would love for you to join us!***

2nd Thursday each Month  
12:30 PM (Central Time)  
Pikeville Municipal Building  
25 Municipal Dr., Pikeville, TN 37367

or contact President Linda Shell 423-304-4376



## A note from The Action Chair- Rebecca Burnette

During the Spring conference, our members graciously gave \$550 for the Sevier County Food Ministries. The Ministry has received the money and has sent a letter of appreciation to us. Also, during the Spring event, 3 clubs received awards for Environmental Projects: Hamblen Co. – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Sevier Co. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Meigs Co.- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

After the Spring Event, our Board Members visited the Wears Valley Ranch, a Christian boarding school for children. It was a highly informative and enlightening visit. This organization will receive our donations during the State Conference in November.

We are currently working with Roane County to plan the charity for the September conference.

## All About Cultural Arts

Hello All East Tennessee TAFCE Members,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the Cultural Arts exhibition for the upcoming Fall Conference at the Roane County Community Center.

We will be displaying all first and second-place county winners at the conference.

I have already begun receiving entries from several counties. I look forward to seeing more of your creative work.

As you submit your entries, please ensure that a TAFCE **Cultural Arts Exhibit Information Form** is completed and attached to each item. This form must remain with the entry throughout the county, region, and state levels.

Additionally, please verify that the **County/Region Report Form** includes all required demographic information and a detailed description of each entry.

All **County/Region Report Forms** are due by September 1 to allow enough time to compile the information for the Fall Conference on September 22.

## A note from McMinn County- Leslye Beria

Hello Summer from McMinn County, TN. Time sure gets away from us. It seems as though it is still Spring and it will officially be Summer in about 10 days. It was a beautiful spring this year!

We are certainly looking forward to our County Council Meeting in July at 6 PM inviting our husbands and friends for our Picnic meeting and we will have our Fashion Review as well.

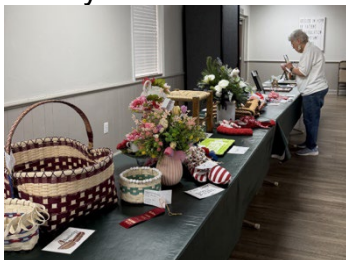
This Spring came and the daffodils our Heart and Home Club planted downtown the last few years were gorgeous. They even planted more this year in another part of town. The Claxton Club planted flowers at the E. G. Fisher Library this spring. Making McMinn County beautiful is being partly done by McMinn County FCE.

The Claxton Club has been continuously making Boo Boo Bags for our County Health Dept. as well as our local pediatricians to use later this summer for children after their shots, before school starts.

This club also is collecting items for nursing homes for their Bingo Games as well as personal items for the residents.



The Spring Event in Gatlinburg was loved by our members. Our county ran the Betsy Ross Mercantile and did very well for our Eastern Region. 9 of us attended from our county.



In April we had our Cultural Arts County Council Meeting. Here is just some of our items for review.

Very soon our county will be having a workshop or two to share in making our items for the goody bags at TAFCE Conference in November.

The Claxton Club had their June meeting this week at one of our members home on the porch in this beautiful weather. It was much fun and the lunch was great! Let us all enjoy this wonderful summer to come teaching and helping others to have a better life!

### **A note from Cumberland County- Joni Witherite**

Cumberland County FCE held their second All-county meeting for the year. All five county clubs were represented. We saw a few new faces at this meeting, as well as having two guests who wanted to learn more about FCE. President David Mahan covered necessary business, then members shared plants and created friendship gardens in pots.



### **A note from Eastern Region Secretary- Joni Witherite**

The Eastern Region has three positions that are up for election in the fall. The terms for president, treasurer, and VP of Public Policy are all up this year. Marti is willing to serve another term as president and has someone in mind for VP of Public Policy, but the Treasurer's position will definitely need to be filled. If there are any members in your clubs who are interested in filling one of these positions, especially treasurer, or just want more information please contact Joni Witherite, TAFCE East Secretary, email [tafceeastsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:tafceeastsecretary@gmail.com).

### **A note from TAFCE Eastern Region Treasurer- Pat Malbrough**

Hello Eastern Region! I hope everyone who attended the Spring Event enjoyed it! The speakers, the craft classes and the overall fun was well worth it! You should see what we have planned for the State Conference in November. Don't miss out! FOMO is a thing. LOL!

As soon as the National Convention is over in July, I will be sending out information on 2027 dues. I hope in 2027 we can reach, and surpass, our goal of 500 members in the Eastern Region. If you don't know, please ask your club officers about our new Recruiting campaign and the tools we provided at the Spring Event.

I want to thank Bledsoe, Washington, Sevier, Monroe, Anderson, Bradley, Blount, Jefferson, Union and Cumberland Counties for sending in their \$10.00 check to support the hospitality room for the State Conference. If your county is not named, please send your check in to me as soon as possible. It is greatly appreciated.

### **A Note from Monroe County- Tammye Miller**

Monroe County had 8 Ladies that attended 2025 TAFCE State Conference in Murfreesboro, TN. Three of those ladies were First Timers: Deborah Paxton, Valerie Adkins, and Melinda Travis. Deborah and Melinda received the First Timers award as was given back their entry money for the conference. We had lots of ladies that entered in the Cultural Arts and Dress Revue. We had lots of Winners from Monroe County. Those ladies that entered in the contest were: Nicki Briddon, Donna Allen, Donna Florom, Donna Roberts, Pat Malbrough, Tammye Miller, Veronica Miller, Doris FoxFeathers, and Deborah Paxton.

While we were at TAFCE State Conference we attended lots of educational classes and craft classes and had a lot of fun. We also helped some ladies from Western Region with making Dresses and Shorts for the Kids in Jamaica that were hit by the hurricane. We constructed 50 garments. This was so much fun. We formed an assembly line some cutout, others sewed, surged, ironed, and pinned. It felt good to make these items.

At our January meeting we are gearing up for State Conference. Monroe County is in charge of the Store. Each month at our meeting we will be making some kind of homemade craft for the store. We are also meeting once a month at the Extension Office to do sewing crafts for the store. We are having so much fun coming up with really unique ideas and useful crafts as well as fun ones too. If anyone would like to join us on craft day. We meet the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 at the Monroe County Extension Office in Madisonville.

February: we donate lots of supplies to our local animal shelter. We provided food for both dogs and cats, cat litter, pet toys, towels, blankets, bleach, and medicine bottles

March: we served Dinner to Celebrate Recovery in Tellico Plains at Unicoi Baptist Church. We served walking tacos and good homemade desserts. There were about 30 people and there was a little left over for some to take home. I was a blessing to serve those that are trying to get back on track.

April: we filled up two Blessings Boxes with food and hygiene items. I went back the next day and everything was gone. Lots of people in our county are in need.

June: we donated to the Tellico Plains Police department. We furnish them with food, coffee, water and snacks that they can just grab and go.

Monroe County FCE hosted a 250th United States of America Anniversary Luncheon on May 7th at Grain Bin Commodities in Sweetwater Tennessee. The money made was donated to our K-9 officer "Tigue" that is new to the Sherriff's Department. Tigue and his handler officer Brian Miller will be servicing area counties with their service. They go to Monroe, McMinn, Polk, Bradley, and anywhere else that is needed. We had Parade of

Prizes; we will also play SINGO. Its like BINGO but with songs. We had a great time. Thanks to all the other counties that came and helped us to raise the money. We were able to raise \$3000.00 for the K9 officer's vest.

Monroe County FCE and The Clique for Animals presented Officer Miller and Tigue with the check. He was so excited and very appreciative of the donation. His Chief Officer was impressed that we raised the money for the K9. They were both so happy and Tigue was excited to see us all.

Monroe County will have 5 members from the Callie Cobb Club to attend FCL classes in April and will graduate at the Eastern Region State Conference this year. Those ladies attending are Pat Malbrough, Donna Roberts, Donna Allen, Nicki Briddon, and Tammye Miller. Congrats to those ladies for their continue support of FCE.

The Spring Eastern Region Conference was held in Gatlinburg, TN on April 21<sup>st</sup>- & 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a great time and had fun learning new crafts and learn some American History along the way. Pat Malbrough, Tammye Miller and Veronica Miller each taught a craft class. Those that attended from Monroe County were: Pat Malborough, Tammye Miller, Melinda Travis, Donna Allen, Donna Roberts, Nicki Briddon, Cathy Truxton, and Valerie Adkins. We had lots of fun. Looking forward to State.

We have been meeting on the second Tuesday of each month to make crafts for the Bear Necessities Store at State conference. We will continue to meet each month until November. As of now we have made over 36 different crafts. We are having so much fun and everyone has been a huge help. Those that can't sew, iron or cut or decorate can price the items that we are making. Everyone is welcome to join us on the Second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 at the Extension office in Madisonville at 9:00am. We work until around noon.

### **A note from Fashion Revue- Tammye Miller-Chair**

Ladies if you have had your Fashion Revue already, please send in your list of winners to me. Those that have not had their county fashion Revue remember that the winners names need to be in by August. The list must be made before the Eastern Region Fall event in September. Good luck ladies and I hope some of you have entered this year.



## **2026 TAFCE State Conference**

Poke Sacks

The Bear Necessities Shop

Smoky Mountain Snack Shop

### **What is YOUR County Doing to Assist with Filling the Poke Sacks?**

Remember, no Bank marketing materials! Bags will be assembled at the Fall Event on September 22.

Items Committed:

Purse Tape Measure  
Gatlinburg and Trolley Maps  
RFID Credit Card Holder  
Travel Survival Kit  
Prayer Quilt  
Travel Dental Pick Pack  
Homemade Key Ring  
Local Maps and Guides

**Are you making items to sell in The Bear Necessities Shop?** Prefer only 10 of any one item.

**Donations to stock The Smoky Mountain Snack Shop?**

Send a County Donation of at least \$10  
Food items **MUST** be prepackaged, single serve

# 2026 TAFCE State Conference

Hosted by Eastern Region

**"MOVING MOUNTAINS WITH FCE"**

Sunday, November 15-Wednesday November 18  
(3 Nights)

River Terrace Hotel and Conference Center, a Westgate Property  
240 River Road  
Gatlinburg

Rooms range from \$80-\$134/night plus 12.75% Tax

Parking is included with room rental

Grab and Go Breakfast is included with room rental

Rate will be honored for 3 days before and 3 days after the event.

**Link to Book Hotel Rooms:**

<https://resort.to/TN-TAFCE-RT>

**Booking Code:**

60-197

Booking Code WILL NOT WORK on the Westgate reservation website,  
use the link above.

Registration Packets will be available mid-summer.

## **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.