

# The FAN Letter

Florida Affiliate News



November 2024

2024 Board of Directors

## President's Message

As I became President on May 4, 2024, I knew that I had big shoes to fill as Betty McQueen stepped into her role as Past-President. I also knew that I had some traveling to do very shortly. The FAFCS Retreat was uplifting and informative.



One month later, I was heading for Minneapolis for the AAFCFS Annual Conference, representing Florida in the Leadership Council and the Affiliate Presidents Unit (APU). At the Leadership Council, I learned the importance of speaking to stakeholders and politicians in order to advocate for the importance of FCS. We need to focus on the FCS Body of Knowledge and put process into practice. It is imperative that we build alliances with other groups which fit within our areas of expertise, such as dietitians.

At the APU meeting, discussion was more focused (of course) on affiliates. Through sharing of ideas from others, we can grow a stronger affiliate in Florida.

Several points include:

- When members pass away, the affiliate should email [membership@aafcs.org](mailto:membership@aafcs.org)
- Name of the deceased
- When and how the affiliate was notified
- An obituary link
- Invite people who aren't members to affiliate meetings (thanks Betty for modeling that for us this year).
- Contact commodities producers (Beef Council, etc) as presenters, not simply for handout materials.
- Kansas Affiliate holds a joint FCS/Extension annual conference

I attended a breakout session FACS to the Max, presented by a Minnesota State at Mankato professor. I noted several items which could be helpful for our affiliate.

- This is a workshop focusing on skills to maximize classrooms
- Held in the spring on a Friday, at the university

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by January 31, 2025

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- Free to college and high school students. The college students were required to assist.
- “Save the Date” sent out in fall, with a survey for what should be presented
- Timeline for the day was 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Three sessions of 1 hour 15 minutes
- Lunch was at a dining hall
- Charged \$75 for registration, which is a break even point.

I also attended sessions on Advocacy Training

- Have an FCS day at the state capital
- Bring something to look at, hold such as social media content, quotes, webpage or word document
- Go when you have the time, but preferably before legislation is introduced
- AAFCS has an advocacy website <https://www.aafcs.org/aafcs-advocacy/home>
- Partner with industry groups, community groups
- Invite representatives to an event, and my thought is to ask them to participate in an action, not be a speaker.
- We need to know who supports relevant legislation
- Reporters need to have us convince them of the importance of our story. Develop relationships with them.

From a general session, I’d like to share that there are resources available at <https://www.myplate.gov/>, and Think FCS videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mElmVE6IFV8>

It’s always great to attend the AAFCS Annual Conference, and not just to learn. I love networking with people from around the country. In fact, I will be checking in shortly with those from nearby states to see how we can work together.

Twelve days after coming home from Minneapolis, I headed to the IFHE Congress in Galway, Ireland. I strongly suggest that you become a member of the International Federation for Home Economics. I have found that no matter where we live, our profession is in a struggle for existence, but that our people are all pulling for our future together. I took my husband along as we toured the UK and Ireland after we left Galway. We stayed in a very nice dormitory at the University of Galway (Ollscoil na Gaillimhe) where the conference was held.

- Opening Keynote was on sustainability with a focus on studies on the elderly (electricity consumption in Korea, in China, disabled elderly, elder abuse in the U.S.)
- I learned about “Thin Sense” (physical appearance) and “Thick Sense” (not just appearance, but certain properties and values)
- I attended a fascinating session on adapting tribal motifs into clothing, such as neckties, children’s wear, etc.
- **What can we do at FAFCS to help with sustainability issues in clothing?**

- Post-pandemic, with children who have fallen behind, we need a broad and rich curriculum which is participatory, conversational instruction, and ultimately cultural interaction.
- We need to help people to remember that public spending in society is foundational infrastructure: education, transport, public health

The most important session which I attended was “Transforming Home Economics Teachers”, led by a panel of global professors. Home Economics needs to be in the twenty-first century, looking at fundamental needs and practical concerns in everyday life, with integration and which demonstrate capacities, achieving sustainable living for ALL. We can learn from best practices of cooking and sewing, extrapolating them into global competencies, using the same terminology. As an addendum to this, this group along with colleagues are continuing to work on documentation to stress the importance of FCS/HE educators and education to education decision makers globally.

September found me traveling to Kansas City for the Fall Leadership Summit. We were at the hotel where next year’s Annual Conference will be held. I learned about Charlie’s House, which is an entire house set up to educate parents (and future parents) on child safety in the home. A local food rescue non-profit, Pete’s Garden not only spoke to us, but we toured the facility where collected restaurant food is divided into family size portions and delivered to organizations which help low-income families. Presenters from our membership gave insight into procrastination and decision making to defeat that. I learned about the use of AI in preparing lesson plans, assisting in curriculum development and communication with others. I am going to have to live with it, and all of us perhaps should begin to try it.

FCS Week is almost upon us. In order to advocate for FCS, we should be more visible. Here is the link to lots of help: <https://aafcs.org/news-and-events/elevate/fcs-week>.

-Enid Lapham  
FAFCS President

## 2024 Award Recipients

Submitted by Kendra Hughson



### 2024 Kindred Spirit Award

#### MK Mueller

MK Mueller, award winning and program presenter, spent ten years as a high school speech and English teacher and loved every minute of it. But at 34, she found herself in a domestic violence shelter. There, she learned to take full responsibility for her life. She set out on a mission to discover the life skills that the happiest and most successful among us use on a daily basis. The journey resulted in three books, an international speaking career, a TEDx talk, and a K-12 curriculum based on her best-selling book, ***8 to Great: The Powerful Process for Positive Change***.

An articulate master teacher, actor, and musician, she weaves gems of wisdom and documented research and experiences to showcase solutions for positive change for individuals who, in turn, cause a ripple effect in changing the world around them. MK has opened the pathway for over 3,500 counselors and educators to be certified in her **"8-High Ways Process"** while she continues to teach the **8 to Great Process** around the globe.

Having good memories of her high school home economics classes in the 70's and connecting with so many family and consumer sciences professionals in her global travels, MK has long recognized that she and we are like-minded people on a mission to strengthen and build sustainable families. Her messages apply to all the core subject matter concepts of family and consumer sciences. An open-hearted, open-handed giver, she accepts opportunities to provide her training, books, and resources to Florida Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals, regardless of career paths or settings or an individual's point of the life cycle. Thus, the ripple effect continues with the potential to touch the families of the world.



### 2024 Business Professional of the Year

#### Barbara O'Neill, Ph.D., CFP®, AFC®, CRPC®, CPFPE

Dr. Barbara O'Neill is the owner/CEO of Money Talk: Financial Planning Seminars and Publications, where she writes, speaks, and reviews content about personal finance. Money Talk was established in 1992 as a "side hustle" and has been a full-time business enterprise since Dr. O'Neill moved to Ocala, Florida, in December 2019. A Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University, after 41 years of service as a Rutgers Cooperative

Extension county extension educator (26 years) and [personal finance](#) specialist (15 years), she has written over 190 articles for academic publications and received over 35 national awards and over \$1.2 million in grants to support financial education programs and research. Dr. O'Neill is a past President of the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE), a past Treasurer of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), a past President of the New Jersey Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, a recipient of the AFCPE Distinguished Fellow Award, an AAFCS Distinguished Service Award and AAFCS Leader Award recipient, and a Next Gen Personal Finance fellow. She tweets personal finance information @moneytalk1, writes weekly posts for her Money Talk blog, and is the author of [Flipping a Switch](#), a book about 35 later life transitions, published in 2020, and five other books, including *Saving On a Shoestring* and *Investing on a Shoestring*.

### What Makes This Individual Outstanding?

Below is a description of Money Talk from a recent JumpStart Coalition *Financial Fridays* profile:



#### Tell us more about your organization.

Money Talk provides "as needed" financial education content development services for public and private organizations. When groups have a grant-funded financial education program, a one-time special project that needs completion, or a workload that exceeds their current capacity, Money Talk can help them to get the work done.

Projects for clients have included the development of white papers, test questions, blog posts, lesson plans, radio shows, website and social media content, textbook chapter material, brochures, newsletter articles, curricula and facilitators' guides, program evaluation summaries, webinars, and live financial education presentations for consumers and professionals. Money Talk has also been hired to review and revise personal finance curricula, review and revise financial education curriculum standards, and serve as a subject matter expert/technical editor for television shows, trade books, and text books. It has been a JumpStart Coalition partner in 2020. Previously, Dr. O'Neill represented Cooperative Extension on the national JumpStart board and served for over a decade on the board of the NJ Coalition for Financial Education.



**2024 Extension Excellence Award****Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent III, M.S.**

Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent III, M.S. is the County Extension Director and Family and Consumer Sciences agent in Wakulla County. She specializes in healthy cooking, food safety, food preservation, health and wellness, and financial management.

The Wakulla County Family and Consumer Sciences program focuses on providing timely, relevant, and reliable information on topics such as nutrition, health and wellness, and family resource management through a variety of classes, workshops, and community events. Family and Consumer Sciences educational programming provides people with the knowledge and skills they need to improve their quality of life and that of their families.

Samantha Kennedy has worked as a family and consumer sciences agent for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences since April 2004. Before moving to Wakulla County, she worked in Manatee County as the Family & Consumer Sciences agent (2004-2016) and County Extension Director (2013-2016), focusing on nutrition, food safety, and home energy efficiency.

Samantha actively supports her professional organizations, often serving in leadership positions, including:

**FAFCS** President-Elect, President, Past President, and V.P. of Public Affairs

**NEAFCS** V.P. Awards and Recognition and Southern Region Director

**FEAFCS** South Central District Director, President-Elect, President, and Past President

**ESP Alpha Delta Chapter** Member Services chair, Chaplain, Annalist, Secretary, President-Elect, and President

**2024 Leader of the Year Award****Nancy Hamilton**

Everybody defines leadership differently, and irrespective of how you define a leader, he or she can prove to be a difference-maker in the organization's success or failure.

An outstanding characteristic of Nancy is her unwavering commitment to the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. That dedication has been shown through her willingness to serve in leadership positions, including President Elect, President, and Past President. Since 2018, she has been responsible for V.P.

Membership. While in that capacity, she has prepared and disseminated quarterly reports and written articles for the FAN.

Her enthusiasm is notably evident in her ability to take on extra tasks as needed. She has repeatedly served as the State Conference Registrar, an incredibly demanding undertaking.

Her passion is contagious, and her creative thinking skills and ability to communicate are what make her stand out from the crowd.

## **2025 Awards Application Available**

See yourself winning one of our AAFCS awards in 2025.

Nominate yourself or a friend. It is easy to apply!

Awards are due January 31, 2025.

See the attached application on the next page.



## Florida Affiliate of AAFCS AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

*(Check Category Below)*

_____ Teacher of the Year	_____ New Achiever
_____ Leader of the Year	_____ Extension Excellence
_____ Kindred Spirit Award	_____ Business Professional

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**Nominating group/person:**

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**Contact Information:**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

AAFCS Membership #:

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**Nominee:**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

AAFCS Membership #:

**Attach a statement about the nominee describing, "What makes this individual outstanding?".  
The statement should be no more than 500 words.**

Submit to Awards Chair:  
Kendra Hughson  
UF/IFAS Extension Northwest District  
155 Research Road  
Quincy, FL 32351  
850-875-7135  
hughson@ufl.edu

**DEADLINE:**  
**January 31, 2025**

**Note:** If more than one nomination is received for the same award, additional information may be required from the nominee. Recipients in each category must have not previously won in the last 5 years.



## ***DEVELOPMENT FUND DONATIONS!***

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations to the Development Fund during our FAFCS Spring Retreat. We received a grand total of \$512.00. Your generosity and support are appreciated.

Donations contribute to mini grants and other professional development projects the state FAFCS would like to do. A third is sent to AAFCS to support their development fund.

## ***2024-2025 FAFCS Mini-Grant***

***See a need and/or have a project idea for your community, school, or the world at large? Bring your idea to reality with the help of a mini grant. Apply Today!***

**Fall Deadline January 10, 2025**

**Email Completed Entries to:**

**[goolsbyep@pcsb.org](mailto:goolsbyep@pcsb.org)**

**Paulette Goolsby  
Development Chair**

### **MINI-GRANTS PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Florida Association of Family Consumer Sciences (FAFCS) mini-grant educational program is to reward FAFCS members by funding their creative and innovative educational projects to enrich a Family and Consumer Sciences educational opportunity for students, consumers, or community/ business leaders' involvement in FCS activities. Project may occur during the fiscal year (June 1 - May 31) and extension of project granted based on project scope.

### **GRANT AWARDS**

Grants may vary in amount, depending on the nature of the project, with each project grant limited to a maximum of \$250.00. FAFCS members may submit more than one grant application, but each application must reflect a

different project. Grant recipients will be notified by: October 18, 2023. If the project has already been completed (since June 1 of current fiscal year), a grant still may be issued. Based on availability of funds, additional grant applications will be accepted, and notification of another application period will be announced.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any active FAFCS member is eligible to apply for a mini grant.

### **GUIDELINES:**

FAFCS Mini-grant projects show creativity and innovation and must directly involve students, consumers, and/or community leaders.

Grants may be used to compensate experts who come to work with student/community; paid experts are not considered business partners.

- 1) Report presented at the annual FAFCS meeting or alternate method.
- 2) Projects are encouraged to be completed by May 2, 2024. Extensions granted.
- 3) Members awarded grants must submit expense reports and final reports, including project evaluation by, May 2, 2024. Exceptions are on a case-by-case basis.
- 4) Mini-grant recipients are expected to present at an annual State Conference or alternate method, if recipient is unable to attend the State Conference.

### **GRANT EVALUATION**

Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the FAFCS Development Committee. The persons evaluating the grants may not be familiar with educational jargon or terminology, therefore, briefly explain educational terms used in your application to help grant readers understand the purpose of the program or target population.

**FAFCS Development Mini-Grant Application**

**All five of the sections below must be completed in order to be considered:**

Project Subject Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Request Amount (must match Total Budgeted amount on #3 below): \_\_\_\_\_

How many students or community persons will be involved? Give specific number. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level(s) if students are involved. (If none, put "N/A") \_\_\_\_\_

**In order to ensure impartiality, do not use your name or business in your project description. Use of your name or business may disqualify your grant application.**

**1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Give a brief overall description of the project to be used for publication purposes. Description must be understandable to lay person.

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Why is this project needed?

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What will you do to address this need? (**Please note:** We are looking for creative, innovative and collaborative projects).

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**2. BUSINESS/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP:**

Business or Community Group(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the involvement. \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. PROJECT BUDGET:

[illegible]

#### 4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION:

How will you evaluate the success of your project? Please be specific. (If awarded a grant, this evaluation must be implemented and it should be included, along with your project description, budget and actual expenses, summary of results, and receipts.)

[illegible]

**5. REQUIREMENT:** Email this Original Application by October 4, 2024 to:

**Paulette Goolsby, Development Chair** [goolsbyep@pcsb.org](mailto:goolsbyep@pcsb.org)



## Training to Revitalize, Educate & Engage

Professional and Personal Development

FAFCS Annual Conference May 2-4, 2024

DaySpring Conference Center



### MK Mueller

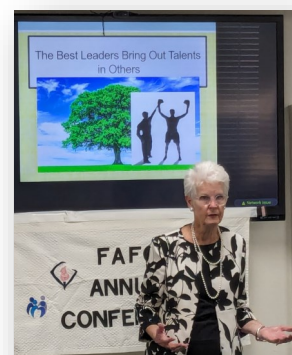
Guest Speaker MK Mueller gave information and solutions for positive changes from her book 8 to Great: The Powerful Process for Positive Change.

She presented each of the “8 High-Ways to Great” and gifted each attendee with a copy of her book.

### Barbara Stewart, Ed.D., CFCS

We’re honored that she accepted the invitation to attend our conference. She spoke with us about key leadership strategies for professional and personal life.

Congratulations to Dr. Stewart who will be installed as the New President at the AAFCS conference in Minneapolis in June!



**Congratulations!**

### 2024 Award Winners



Kendra Hughson,  
Awards Chair,  
presents Nancy  
Hamilton  
with the Leader of  
the Year Award.



Dr. Barbara O'Neill,  
Business  
Professional



MK Mueller  
Kindred Spirit



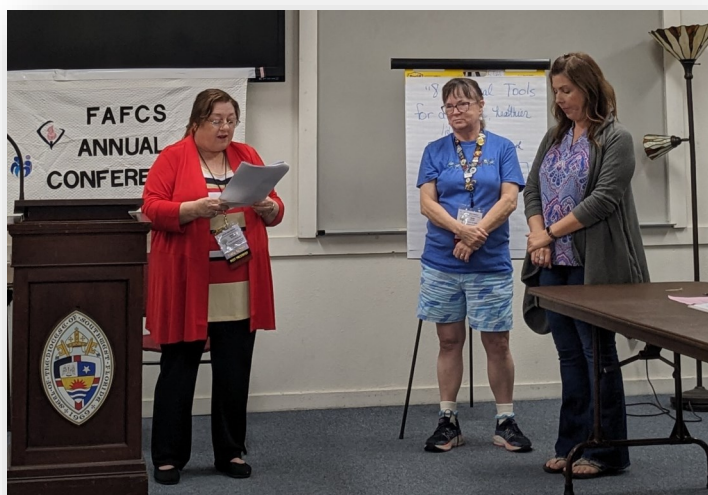
Samantha  
Kennedy,  
Extension  
Excellence

## 2024-25 Officers

(l-r) Dr. Ginger Phillips—Secretary, Dawn Williams, CFCS—Treasurer, Betty Mann-McQueen, CFCS,—Past President, Parliamentarian, By-Laws & Policy Handbook Chair, Enid Lapham—President, Dr. Suzanne West —President Elect, Nancy Hamilton, CFCS—Vice President of Membership. Not pictured include: Jill Breslawski—Vice President Public Relations, Newsletter Editor, Kim Griffin—Nominating Committee Chair.



(l-r Donna McGrew, Enid Lapham, Dr. Suzanne West) Donna McGrew, Adm. Asst. stepped in for Kim Griffin ( Nominating Committee Chair, who was unable to attend ) to install incoming officers.







1st row: (l-r) Diana Smith, Nan Summers, Nancy Hamilton, Enid Lapham, and Donna McGrew

2nd row: Betty Mann-McQueen, Annie Wilson, Diann Douglas, Arnell Waldron,  
Ginger Phillips, Marilyn Swierk, Janice Coleman, and Shirley Brown

3rd row: Paulette Goolsby, Sha Pate, Samantha Kennedy, Barbara Stewart,  
Suzanne West, and Dawn Williams.

Not pictured: Barbara O'Neill, Ginny Hinton, Marcia Brown,  
Kendra Hughson, Linda Cook and MK Mueller.

**Many thanks to all who attended...**  
**and special thanks to Betty Mann McQueen for arranging the event.**  
**—Donna McGrew Conference Chair & Enid Lapham Conference Liaison**



## **IFHE and IHES**

Submitted By: Joyce Cotner  
FAFCS, IFHE Chair & IHES President

The XXV World Congress of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), 23–28 June, 2024 in Galway, Ireland, was outstanding! (Galway, Ireland, was a perfect venue for the Congress with walking, touring, double-decker buses, museums, friendly people, Irish-Sing-a-Longs, change of weather, etc, etc!)



The theme, 'Home Economics in a Time of Transformation: Bridging the Past - Charting the Future', was exceptionally carried out during the Welcome Reception, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Congress Program, Technical and Leisure Tours, and Gala Dinner.

Many of my highlights included: #1) Sharing various Congress events with Florida Affiliate Members Samanta Kennedy and Enid Lapham; #2) Meeting and awarding Scholarships to deserving Congress Attendees along with fellow International Home Economic Services members; and, #3) Sharing a once-in-a-lifetime event with my husband, daughter and son.

As President of International Home Economics Services, I attended, served and voted during the two IFHE Council Delegate Assemblies. In addition, IHES Awarded eight Scholarships to Congress Attendees. Attached photo: Judith Warren, IHES Secretary; Patricia Unung, British Columbia, Vancouver, IHES Scholarship Recipient; Gwendolyn Hustevdt, IFHE President; Guixin Xu, China, IHES Scholarship Recipient; Joyce Cotner, IHES President; and, Nancy Granovsky, IHES Treasurer.

I recommend you seriously consider attending the IFHE World Congress 2028 in Wellington, New Zealand. Wellington is the ideal environment to make new connections and cement enduring relationships. IFHE2028.com. I encourage you to join IFHE! [www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org)

Joyce Cotner  
FAFCS IFHE Chair  
IHES President



## **FALL REPORT FOR REGION ONE**

Summer has been a busy time for members in our area. It's been a balance of work and play as some enjoyed vacations away from home. Of course, some of us had to deal with another hurricane which crawled across the northeastern part of the panhandle, cutting across southern Georgia and up the coast. There were power outages, fallen trees that block driveways, and a lot of yard debris to clear up. Then, there were the neighbors who called to question

how long their food would last in the freezer without power. People seem to know we are a trusted source for accurate food safety information. Things are getting back to normal; no reported injuries and all pets survived the ordeal.

Lynda Cook from the Gainesville area made her annual trip to North Carolina where she and her husband have a cabin in the mountains. They escape the heat and humidity each year. She is back home and planning a trip to Scotland in October. It helps to be married to a travel agent!

Dr. Penny Raulston is just back from vacation and looking forward to students returning for the fall term. Classes hadn't started at the deadline for news, so we won't know how FSU is going until the Winter newsletter. She has promised to give us a detailed report.

Congratulations to Kim Griffin, FCS agent in Swannee County, for her promotion to Extension Agent III. It's well deserved as Kim has a number of programs going on designed to improve health, well-being and financial literacy. A Matter of Balance targets fall prevention in the elderly population. She has also partnered with the local housing authority to create community gardens in apartment locations to reduce food insecurity. Lastly, she has partnered with Career Source North Florida to provide financial education to youth in the area.

Judy Corbus has teamed up with Extension agents six counties in the panhandle to team teach homebuyer education classes in a hybrid format. Participants go to their local Extension office and lessons are taught via Zoom. Agents share in teaching the lessons. In June, a 4-H day camp took youth through Living On My Own simulation, 18 teens from four counties enjoyed the experience. Another multi-county effort in July held a Private and Water Quality Workshop.

Needless to say, FAFCS members are meeting the challenges of teaching skills that improve the quality of life for Florida residents.

**Submitted by Diann Douglas**

### **FAFCS Member Releases Children's Book**



FAFCS member Linda Smock has written and released a new children's book, "Black-eyed Susan and Friends" in late August. Black-eyed Susan is a scientific personification of a common flower who teaches the readers about pollination. Several common insects are spied by Susan and she shares how they pollinate and add value to the plant community.

Smock is a Master Gardener volunteer through the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension. A horticulturalist reviewed the book to be sure facts were accurate. It will be available on Amazon. Preschoolers will enjoy having it read to them, and elementary children can practice their reading skills as they play "I spy" with Black-eyed Susan. Interactive pages allow them to reinforce their learning.

This is the second book for children that Smock has published. The first is “Just Call Me Honey,” also a scientific personification. “Honey” is a honey bee who teaches the children many facts about bees, honey, and beeswax. In addition, Smock has five Christian devotional books available on Amazon. She was also an author of several textbooks used by Family and Consumer Sciences teachers in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

You can follow her activities on her Facebook page, Homespun Stories. Books are available at [www.amazon.com/author/homespun.devotion.series.1](http://www.amazon.com/author/homespun.devotion.series.1).

**Submitted by Linda Smock**



### **FAFCS Honors Membership Milestones 2024**

(Submitted by Nancy Hamilton, CFCS; VP of Membership)



The Florida Affiliate of AAFCS (FAFCS) is proud to recognize the following members for reaching these Membership Milestone Anniversaries. Those attending the 2024 FAFCS Annual Meeting (Retreat) received their certificate at that time.

Ruth Gaines	Region 3/E	60 years	Linda Smock	Region 2/F	50 years
Dr. Diana Smith	Region 2/F	50 years	Joyce Cotner	Region 3/J	45 years
Mary Beth Salisbury	Region 3E	40 years	Christine Bailes	Region 2/F	35 years
Janell Smith	Region 3/E	10 years	Dr. Suzanne West	Region 2/F	5 years

This is also an appropriate time to recognize our FAFCS First Year Members!  
We hope that you will continue your membership and service to the profession.

Blair Pott                      Region 3E              1 year

NOTE: For purposes of this report, Milestones are determined by the number of years reported on the AAFCS roster ONLY. Because of the change in determining certificates, some members appear on this year's list AND last year's list!  
Apologies to anyone who was forgotten!

## *Let Their Light Shine On*



Nettie Ruth Brown, 93 of St. Augustine, Fl., passed away peacefully on December 2, 2023, at W. Wells Nursing Home. In the unexplained twists and turns of life, Nettie was joined in death fifty-four minutes later by her sister, Betty Madden, from Anderson, S.C.

Nettie is predeceased by her parents, her sister and brother-in-law Claudine and Berry Rhoden; her brother and sister-in-law Ray and Eve Brown; her sister and brother-in-law Betty and Marvin Madden; her brother and sister-in-law Marcus and De-lores Brown; and her nephew Robert Dean Rhoden. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law George Marvin and Helena Brown; her sister and brother-in-law Marjorie and Ray

Dunn; and her sister Athena Gail Brown. Nettie is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. She was looking forward to greeting a first great-great--great-niece or nephew in March, 2024.

Nettie was born February 11, 1930, in Baxter, Florida to Ray L. and Athen Raulerson Brown. She was so proud of her family heritage in Baker County. Her maternal grandparents were Alvie Alonzo and Katie Fish Raulerson. Her paternal grandparents were George Colquitt and Minnie Taylor Brown. Her roots ran deep in the pioneer spirit of these families who were instrumental in the development of Baker County.

Nettie began her education in 1936 in a one-room schoolhouse, The Knabb School. She would walk to school everyday with her older family members who also attended the school. With the opening of The Taylor School in 1937, she began second grade and graduated from The Taylor School in 1948 with a record of 12 years of perfect attendance. While attending The Taylor School she saw a magazine advertisement for Berry College in Rome GA. She applied for their work/study program and was accepted.

When she arrived at Berry College and after working in several positions Nettie convinced the powers that be that she would make a much greater contribution to the college by serving as a guest hostess who greeted the distinguished visitors who came to Berry campus. Working at Berry campus is how Nettie covered her tuition and board. To her last day, she could recount in great detail the fascinating visitors she got to meet. Nettie graduated from Berry College in 1952 with a BS in Home Economics. After graduation she completed graduate studies at Cornell University and the University of Florida.

Nettie's professional career began in McMinn County, Athens, TN, as the Assistant Home Demonstration Agent. During this time 4-H Clubs were held in the schools. Nettie would go to the schools and teach classes in growing crops, canning, preserving food, food preparation, sewing, and dairy farming. In addition, she would be the 4-H Youth Program Leader.

Nettie's move to St. Augustine, FL. in 1960. She continued as the St. Johns County Home Demonstration Agent. She served as the Acting Extension Director of St. Johns County, St. Johns County Extension Home Economist and the St. Johns County 4-H Youth Program Leader. During her career in Tennessee and Florida, Nettie had many state and national winners in the 4-H program.

Nettie's professional career earned the title of "Organizer Extraordinaire!" To quote an article written about her: "Anyone who knows Nettie Ruth Brown will tell you three little words she sometimes utters that put fear in the hearts of even the bravest: I've been thinking!. Let it be known here and now that when Miss Brown has been thinking, everyone is going to work."

Nettie served in a host of leadership roles in local, state, and national organizations. Some of them included: President of the National Association of Extension Home Economists; Chairman for Seminars and Workshops for the National 4-H Agents Association; President of the Florida Association of Extension Home Economists; Chairman of the Florida Association of State 4-H Agents; Charter Member and Past President of the American Association of University Women; St. Johns County American Cancer Society; St. Johns County Red Cross Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; St. Johns Pilot Club; St. Johns County Board Member of the Friends of the Library; Vice-President of the Cherokee Garden Club; St. Augustine Chapter of Sister Cities International.

Nettie's dedication to her career has been recognized with a variety of professional awards. They included Distinguished Service Awards from Florida Association of Extension Home Economists, Florida 4-H Agents Association; Epsilon Sigma Beta, Baker County High School Hall of Fame; St. Augustine Record Newspaper; St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, St. Johns County Board of Public Instruction; Who's Who in American Women;

Berry College Distinguished Service Award; 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nettie's service will be held at Guerry Funeral Home Chapel in Macclenny, FL. Visitation will be Tuesday, December 5th from 6 to 8 P.M. Funeral services will be at 11 A.M., Wednesday, December 6th. Interment will be held at a later date. A memorial service will be held in St. Augustine at Nettie's Church, Memorial Presbyterian Church at a later date.

To quote one family member, "with Nettie's passing, an era has ended. She was a strong independent woman who lived her life on her own terms. Nettie saw no limitations to success for any one person who was willing to get an education and work hard to achieve that measure of success. She was our family hero and the second matriarch of our family after the passing of our mother. Nettie always looked for the positive side in her dealings with people in any personal and professional situations. She was a role model of success for every generation of our family. Nettie loved her family, friends, and colleagues. She will be missed by them all."

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to Nettie's scholarships:

The Nettie Ruth Brown Scholarship  
c/o St. Johns County 4-H Foundation  
3125 Agricultural Center Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

The Nettie Ruth Brown Scholarship  
c/o The University of Florida Foundation  
1938 W. University Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32603

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Florida Affiliate of AAFCS  
c/o Donna McGrew, Administrative Assistant  
3175 57th Avenue Circle East  
Bradenton, FL 34203-5332

December 2024