

The FAN Letter

Florida Affiliate News



Winter 2026



DR. SUZANNE WEST-PRESIDENT

A message from the President

Dear Members of the Family Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, I am filled with excitement and gratitude as we begin this new year together. It is truly an honor to serve as your president, and I am looking forward to all the opportunities we will have to connect, grow, and continue making a meaningful impact through Family & Consumer Sciences.

One event I am especially excited about is our **state drive-in conference at beautiful Bok Tower Gardens on May 9, 2026**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather in person, enjoy a unique setting, share ideas, and celebrate the incredible work happening across our state. I hope many of you will be able to join us for this special day of learning and fellowship.

I am also pleased to share that I will be hosting a **book study in March** on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* by Stephen R. Covey. We will hold **two sessions** to discuss the book and explore how its principles connect to our work in strengthening individuals and families. I am excited to announce that I am working with **Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties** to offer **three continuing education credits** to current teachers who participate in the study. I will confirm with each county prior to the book study to confirm this is possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for professional growth, meaningful conversation, and practical application in both classroom and family settings. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please email me at: **GatorSuzieQ@yahoo.com** so that I may plan accordingly. I will reach out to those interested directly, for more information.

This year is full of promise, and I am so happy to be on this journey with each of you. Thank you for the dedication, heart, and professionalism you bring to our field every day. Together, we will continue to make a difference.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." —Nelson Mandela



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DONNA MCGREW

In this newsletter
you can expect:

AAFCS
Conference

Ballot

State
Conference

The Makery

World Home
Economics Day

Mini Grants



State Conference
MAY 9, 2026
BOK TOWERS
LAKE WALES, FL



Congratulations to Samantha Kennedy for being elected to the AAFCS Board of Directors as Director at Large.



Annual Conference

June 18-21, 2026

Join us in the heart of Louisville for the premier event in family and consumer sciences! The AAFCS is thrilled to host our 2026 Annual Conference at the iconic Galt House Hotel, where professionals, educators, students, and industry leaders will gather to connect, learn, and inspire.

Register at: www.aafcs.org

*Join or Renew Membership Today!
See page 3*



Join or Renew

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences has been helping members grow personally and professionally since our founding in 1909 as the American Home Economics Association. Though our profession has expanded and evolved through the years, our mission remains.

ACCESS | BUILD | CONNECT | MAXIMIZE | NETWORK | READ | STAND UP | VALIDATE

MEMBER CATEGORY

Membership is valid for one year, at which time members will receive a renewal invitation. Privileges of all members include affiliate membership, engaging in groups of the Association, a subscription to the official publication, the *Journal of Family & Consumer Sciences*, and access to virtual professional development.

Membership Levels (select one below)

Professional

Members in the Professional category are individuals with a degree or professional-level credential who support the field of family & consumer sciences. Professional category members are eligible to hold elected office.

- Introductory (Annual) \$100**
Special rate offered for the first year of Professional Membership
- Renewal (Annual) \$150**

Emeritus \$100

Members who meet the Professional category criteria who are retired and at least 60 years of age.

Student \$50

Members in the Student category are enrolled as part-time or full-time degree or endorsement-seeking students in a postsecondary program, as confirmed by a completed Student Status Statement, below. Student category members are eligible to hold elected office.

Student Status Statement

I am currently enrolled as a student meeting the criteria above.

 Full Name of School/ College/ University/ Institution (No Acronyms)

Membership Information

- New Member**
- Renewing Member: ID Number** _____

Full Name _____

Title/Occupation _____

Mailing Address _____

City | State | Zip | Country _____

Cell _____

Phone _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

PAYMENT AMOUNT

AAFCFS Membership Dues \$ _____
Additional Options

- \$45 FCS Research Journal Subscription (Online)
- Donation to the Annual Fund* \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____
(AAFCFS dues + optional fees)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Check #** _____
- PO #** _____

Membership will be active upon payment of purchase order.

Payment mailing: PO Box 79377 | Baltimore, MD 21279-0377

AAFCFS accepts AmEx, Discover, MasterCard and Visa payments
online scan here →



INVEST IN YOURSELF AND THE PROFESSION | JOIN TODAY!

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

703.706.4600 / 800.424.8080

Membership@aafcs.org

*AAFCFS is a 501(c-3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions beyond basic dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Minute for Membership



By Nancy Hamilton

While preparing the membership report for this quarter, the downward trending of our FAFCS membership was hard to miss. Five (5) years ago, our active membership was 80; now it is 54. So, I did some research on why that might be happening. During the past 5-6 months, our Florida Affiliate of AAFCS has lost 7 members. Four (4) of those seven (7) were members only for one year. The following is an excerpt from an article by Claire Glisson (6/20/22) I found at <https://blog.hum.works/posts/5-reasons-younger-generations-arent-joining-associations> Here is what I found!

On average 71% of associations member base is comprised of members over 40 years of age. (74% of our membership—40/54 have OVER 21 years of membership)

Membership is everyone's job, so let's work together!

Here are the "5 Reasons Younger Generations Aren't Joining Associations":

1. You are not meeting them where they are. Young professionals are building their careers across a multitude of social and professional channels like LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, Reddit, and Facebook. They won't attend your events or join your mailing list unless you meet them where they are.
2. You aren't supporting their nuanced career trajectories. Gone are the days of 30+ years working your way through one organization. If your leadership is full of seasoned professionals who spent their entire careers at one organization, your association won't be able to relate to what it's like growing a young career in the 2020's.
3. You're not creating the experiences they want. They crave options. Did you know that only 6% of associations report offering virtual membership options?! The typical Gen Zer has an attention span of just 8 seconds! Associations must understand how to translate their content formats that will capture that attention before it's gone.
4. You haven't proven the value matches the price point. If you can't develop the experiences that young members crave, you can't prove your value. Many associations still have inflexible memberships with one price, all-access model. But out young members likely don't want it all and they likely can't afford it. Focus on linking membership to value and creating options and bundles based on how that value translates to various "could-be" member cohorts. (I'm hearing this from some of our experienced members, too. They want to know what they get out of their membership. One of our losses this time was a 50+ year member!)
5. Your communications aren't personalized. Modern email communications should be segments, highly relevant and infrequent. Your members are inundated with unimportant information. Inconvenience and irrelevance put young professionals off for good! Personalization might be a great place to start!



AAFCs
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

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Membership Information

New Member
 Renewing Member: ID Number _____

Full Name _____
Title/Occupation _____
Mailing Address _____
City | State | Zip | Country _____
Cell Phone _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

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Here's another article: (18) The Value of Professional Membership - A Personal Perspective | LinkedIn

FAFCS Region 2 Gets Hands-On (and a Little Messy!) in Sarasota

Tiffany Camacho
Region 2 Chair

FAFCS Region 2 members gathered on January 24, 2026, for a creative and memorable meet-up at The Makery SRQ in Sarasota and this meeting definitely looked a little different than our usual ones! We kicked things off with a pottery wheel class, where each member created a mini piece using the turning table. While waiting for turns at the wheel, everyone had fun playing with clay and letting creativity take over. From crowns and cat plates to spoon holders and freestyle designs, the room was filled with laughter, conversation, and plenty of clay-covered hands. All pieces were left behind to dry and will be glazed in colors chosen by the group, making each finished piece a shared memory of the day!



After getting our creative fix, members headed out for a delicious and hearty lunch to Hamlet's Eatery, where we enjoyed good food and great conversation naturally turned into our business meeting. While enjoying the meal from Hamlet's eatery, we chatted about Conference Scholarships for Members (CSM) as we look ahead to the upcoming FAFCS State Conference.



Before wrapping up, members were reminded that pottery pieces will be ready for pickup in about four to five weeks, which means another excuse to get together!

Plans are already in the works for a small follow-up gathering that will include picking up our pottery and visiting local Sarasota favorites like The Der Dutchman & Peachey's for some of the area's best sweet treats!

This meeting was the perfect mix of creativity, connection, and community, reminding us that FAFCS is just as much about relationships and joy as it is about professional growth.



Development Fund Donations!

We will be collecting Development Fund Donations at our annual meeting in May. Donations contribute to mini grants and other professional development projects FAFCS would like to do. A third is sent to AAFCS to support their development fund.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may still send your donations:

Checks to “FAFCS” may be sent to

Dawn Williams

2019 Utopian Dr. W. #208

Clearwater, FL 33763.

MINI GRANT RECIPIENTS

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. The budget allows for three to be awarded for a maximum of \$250 each.

The original deadline date for Mini-grants was December 1, 2025 in which there were no applicants. An email was sent to all FAFCS members in January, announcing that the deadline was extended to January 31, 2026. Only two mini-grant applications were received and subsequently awarded \$250:

- Olivia Ursch – “Launching FCCLA Building Interest, Skills, and Leadership at the Middle School Level”
- Paulette Goolsby – “LIA (Lealman Innovation Academy) Community Garden”

Grant recipients agreed to present at the Annual State Conference or by an alternative method if unable to attend the State Conference.

Congratulations to our 2025/2026 mini-grant recipients!



Region 1
Diann Douglas-Chair

Region 1 members have been busy in their work and retirement. During the fall, we held meetings in two different locations. We chose this format because our area is so large, that finding a central location would mean some members would have to drive 4 to 5 hours. In September, members met for lunch in Tallahassee. In October, another meeting was held in Gainesville for members within driving distance. It was nice to see friends and colleagues to catch up. The following is an update from members:

· Dr. Penny Ralston from FSU, shared that Dr. Marianne Moore lost her husband in November. Dr. Moore retired as Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Textiles in the College of Human Sciences after 30 years at FSU, she worked from 1985 until 2015. Many members may have taken her classes. Her husband, Tim Moore, is the former Director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and very prominent in the state. Dr Ralston is sharing the obituary in case you might want to reach out to Dr. Moore

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tallahassee-fl/james-moore-12634256>

· Dr. Barbara O’Neil continues to conduct webinars through Rutgers University. She retired to Ocala several years ago and we are lucky to have her in Florida. At national conferences, many of us attended her sessions the hear the latest research and recommendations in financial management. Barbara wasn’t able to attend our fall meeting due to a scheduled webinar. She is sharing the site for us to view RCE Inflation webinar:

<https://extension.rutgers.edu/wellness-wednesdays/archive/wellness#inflation-fighting-strategies>

There is also a Wellness Wednesday webinar held by Rutgers every week and she is sharing that link. For the entire archive:

<https://extension.rutgers.edu/wellness-wednesdays>

The combined webinars will help us stay healthy and financially fit!

Dr. O’Neil’s motto is “Happiness is positive cash flow ... and good health”

· Wendy Woods reports that UF Extension agents will meet for training in February to get updates in two ongoing programs; **Keeping Blood Pressure Down** and **Dining with Diabetes**. These are two programs that have been highly effective in communities helping people make positive food choices for their health.



FCCLA is looking for individuals to help judge and be timekeepers for events at the State Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, March 28 and/or Sunday, March 29.

If you would like to volunteer, email: Competitiveevents@fccla.org and let them know which days you are available!



International Federation of Home Economics
World Home Economics Day is March 21, 2026. It's a time to reflect on the many ways nutrition shapes our future. You are what you eat!
View www.ifhe.org for additional info and to join IFHE.



IFHE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IHES provides services to Home Economists in Developing Countries. The IHES Website effectively provides Project Proposal Forms (Small Grants); highlights recent projects, including Scholarships, provides a Donation Form; and individual recognition. As always, your recommendations and proposals are encouraged and welcome. Check out the **IHES Website, -- IHEServices.org.**

In October, Hurricane Melissa wreaked havoc in the Caribbean. IHES members will combine efforts with IFHE's newly revised initiative, Program Recovery and Renewal. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact:

CAHE President, Lucille Marcelle at cahesecretary@gmail.com and share your concerns. It will be comforting for the Caribbean Home Economists to hear from you.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT JANUARY 2026

The committee has met and prepared the following ballot. According to the Bylaws of the Florida Association of Family Consumer Sciences, the ballot may be by Consensus since no position is opposed.

Submit objections only electronically or by mail no later than **April 1, 2026**. Ballots with objections not received by that date will be considered an acceptance vote for the slate of officers.

Vote presented at the Annual Conference.

Objections electronically to Nominating Chair Ruth Gaines, email rrgaines@att.net or Ruth Gaines, 702 S Oak Ave, Sanford, FL 32771

FLORIDA AFFILIATE FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE BALLOT 2026

_____ President- Elect	Tiffany Camacho
_____ Vice President Membership	Nancy Hamilton
_____ Vice President Public Relations	Niki Lockett
_____ Nominating Committee	Betty McQueen
_____ Nominating Committee	Carolynne Fooshee

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emlapham@comcast.net
enidgl@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Chair

Ruth Gaines
rrgaines@att.net

Administrative Assistant

Donna McGrew

<p>Awards Chair Trisha Aldridge trishaa@ufl.edu</p>	<p>Development Chair Paulette Goolsby goolsbyep@gmail.com</p>	<p>Scholarship Chair Dr. Ginger Phillips gphillips@ardensolutions.com</p>
<p>International Chair Joyce Cotner, CFCS joys4joyce@comcast.net</p>	<p>Social Media Chair Samantha Kennedy imacatlvr@gmail.com</p>	<p>Region 1 Chair Diann Douglas ddoug@embarqmail.com</p>
<p>Region 2 Chair Tiffany Camacho tiffanymancho@icloud.com</p>	<p>Region 3 Chair Vacant</p>	<p>Nominating Committee Betty McQueen mcqueenbm@aol.com</p>

Thank you for reading!

Submit articles for the Winter Edition by January 31, 2026

Email: niki.lockett@hcps.net