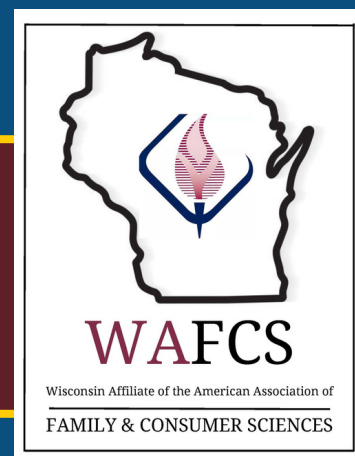


WAFCS News – April, 2026

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES



President Cathy's Corner

Congratulations to the WAFCS members who cheered on their FCCLA members at the 2026 WI FCCLA Leadership Conference April 6-8.

WAFCS had a strong presence at the conference thanks to a Sponsorship Agreement between WI FCCLA and WAFCS. The "Say Yes to FCS" Signing Ceremony was hosted by WAFCS and five graduating seniors committed to majoring in FCS Education. WAFCS continues to grow stronger through collaboration with other FCS related groups. We are WAFCS Proud.

2025-2026 Executive Board

President – Cathy Lader

President Elect – Jenny Wehmeier

Past President – Sue Strutz

Secretary – Judy Knudsen

Treasurer – Susan Turgeson

VP of Professional Development – Jennie Marx

VP of Awards & Recognition – Tara Weber

VP of Communication & Technology – Sadie Hooker

Executive Director – Cindy Quilling

Standing Committee Chairperson

Membership Chair – Kelly Yeakey

May Professional Development

Watch for further information!

Identity Fraud & Scam through the Lifespan Webinar

Susan Shaffer, Vice President, BSA Officer

Susan will cover the types of scams plus how educating the public can disrupt the scam industry.

May 12, 2026, 10:00am

AAFCS Annual Conference

Let us know if you will be attending.

Connect with Jenny at wehmje@elkhorn.k12.wi.us or Cindy Quilling at cindyquilling.wafcs@gmail.com



~ AAFCS Curriculum Showcase ~

Empowering Educators, Elevating Practice

AAFCS extends a special invitation to educators to participate in the ESAE Curriculum Showcase which provides a vibrant platform for Family & Consumer Sciences educators to share high-quality lesson plans, units, assessments, and instructional resources.

Application Due Date - May 10, 2026

Membership Milestones Program

Congratulations to the 5, 25, and 40 year WAFCS members who were recognized at the 2026 WAFCS Annual Conference. Thank You to the committee of Ryan Lehman, Tara Weber, and Sadie Hooker for planning the first year of the Membership Milestones Program. These recognitions are based on the affiliate roster provided to WAFCS from AAFCS. Check your years of membership online by logging into your "My AAFCS" profile on the AAFCS website. AAFCS has a rolling membership which means state rosters change every month. Questions about your years of membership need to be directed to AAFCS.

CFCS Recognition

The 2026 WAFCS Conference was the first time members holding the CFCS certification were recognized by the state affiliate. Congratulations to all WAFCS members who have earned, and maintained, this credential. The status of a member's CFCS is determined by AAFCS. Check your "My AAFCS" profile on the AAFCS website to confirm your certification is in place. When questions arise about CFCS status contact AAFCS to resolve any issues.

~ From Our Members ~

Jeanne Schwass Long



Stoughton's United Methodist Food Pantry

Stoughton United Methodist Food Pantry started 38 years ago in a closet at the church. When a call came in for food a volunteer would pack one grocery bag with non-perishable food items from the closet. The family in need would pick it up at the church office.

I started volunteering in 2003 after retirement. At that time we had a pantry room, storage room, kitchen space and Paulson Hall for registration and display of produce, bakery, and free items. Former Director Jane Priebe designated our pantry as "Self-Selection" so clients could select the food items their family needed in order to maintain their dignity. When she moved to Florida in 2012, I became director. Today our pantry encompasses the same space, plus an office for our director, Ruth Lawton since 2020. We even have our own phone line.

Maintaining the "dignity of our clients" using the pantry is important to us. A plaque in the "Fireside Room" states: "Let all that you do be done in Love". (1 Corinthians 16:14) First time clients may be overwhelmed coming to an unknown place needing assistance due to a job loss, illness, homelessness, death of a family member or circumstance that puts them in a position of need which they have never experienced before.

~Continued~

The first stop is Registration where we welcome them at their level, both seated, explain the procedure of application: no financial information is requested and the form is simple to complete. We explain the guidelines and walk them through the process of getting food. Our volunteers use pleasant conversation to promote a comfortable atmosphere and use “active listening” when needed to be sure we understand their questions. If the need arises, we have outside resources that we can share with the clients. Over time we develop rapport with the regular clients and get to know their likes, needs joys and sorrows. It is not uncommon to hold hands, give hugs, shed tears and/or laughter with our clients.

Other changes occurred with Second Harvest Food Bank, located in Madison, our resource for obtaining food items at a reasonable cost. At first we would go to Second Harvest each week and pick out items that our pantry needed. After a few years they started an ordering process where each pantry ordered on line the items needed and then pick them up in Madison. Some of the food they distributed actually came from local communities. Now we go to our local Pick’n’Save, Aldi’s, Walmart and Kwik Trips weekly to obtain food, plus our Second Harvest order which we pick up. We also receive produce from local farmers, gardeners and businesses such as Cheeser’s, egg producers, and local Farmer’s Markets on a random basis.

Three food drives each year from Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and the Mail Carriers bring in large amounts of non-perishable food which is shared between the City Pantry and ours. We also have community groups such as 4H, Student Council and Churches that have local drives and give us the food!

Our pantry started with a few leaders, formed a logo (a tree whose branches are various foods), had note cards printed and now have a Board with quarterly meetings and a grant writer. The grants we’ve received have increased over the years and are now substantial to where we can purchase commercial appliances as needed. A member writes thank you notes to individuals and businesses that contribute items or funds. Our pantry driver picks up people who need transportation to and from, plus. will deliver groceries if the client can’t get to the pantry and they fill out a grocery order for us to fill.

Almost all of my skills from F/CS are an easy transfer to our Food Pantry work. Meeting and welcoming people, promoting the Food Pantry by writing articles and Thank You notes, budgeting and planning are a clear fit. My background in Family Living, Nutrition and Food Preparation also have multiple skills that transfer. Overall, problem solving and finding other resources fit well. My experience at our Stoughton United Methodist Food Pantry allows me to continue my F/CE work and combine it with my “faith actions” from Church.

Jeanne Schwass-Long, retired F/CS teacher from the Stoughton Area School District. WAFCS/AAFCS member, Phi Upsilon Omicron advisor at UW-Madison, School of Human Ecology.

Did you know that as of April 10, 2026 WAFCS has 156 members!

AHE Freshmen - 21

AHE New Grad - 1

Student - 31

Professional - 76

Emeritus - 24

Lifetime - 3

All new members receive a letter in the mail. As we are made aware of terminated members, an email is sent out with a survey to fill out as to why.

However, at this time, no one has filled out the form.

FYI - AHE stands for Assembly of Higher Education... our students!

KellyYeakey, WAFCS Membership Chair

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Congratulations to WI FCCLA chapter members, officers, and advisers!

**Join us next year at the
2027 Annual Conference!**

**The Wisconsin Hotel &
Conference Center**

February 25-26, 2027

Wisconsin Dells, WI



WAFCS News - April, 2026

Editor: Cindy Quilling

All newsletter submissions are due the 15th of each month to
cindyquilling.wafcs@gmail.com

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



MADISON — State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly made a surprise visit to Dodgeville High School on Tuesday (04.14.26) to celebrate student **Addy Hoyer** and Adviser **Sarah James**, who are among just 10 national finalists selected by the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Both are being recognized for their outstanding service and leadership. “This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of **Addy** and **Ms. James**,” Dr. Underly said. “Dodgeville High School and the community are truly fortunate to benefit from their service and leadership. I am proud to have them represent Wisconsin.”

Hoyer, a senior, is one of five outstanding student leaders selected as the 2026 Member of the Year Award National Finalists. Selected from more than 260,000 members nationwide, the finalists are honored for going above and beyond to uplift their chapters, advocate for their communities and inspire their peers. **Hoyer** has served multiple leadership roles within FCCLA, including chapter vice president of public relations, chapter president, Region 6 ambassador and Wisconsin state vice president of engagement. In her state role, she developed a comprehensive toolkit for the organization’s Community Service Partner, helping chapters implement sustainable service initiatives. Her leadership contributed to raising over \$5,000 for Paul’s Party and the donation of more than 200 kindness cards statewide. She also expanded member engagement by leading workshops, launching the “Lead the Way with FCCLA” podcast, and increasing access to national programs. A three-time national qualifier, **Hoyer** has excelled in competitive events while mentoring others to build confidence and succeed.

James was selected as one of five finalists – out of more than 7,300 chapter advisers nationwide – for the 2026 Adviser of the Year. The award is the highest honor a chapter adviser can receive and celebrates the exceptional leadership, dedication and impact of advisers who support FCCLA members. As adviser for the Dodgeville FCCLA Chapter for the past 10 years, **James** has grown chapter membership significantly while building a strong, student-centered program that empowers members to discover their passions, develop real-world skills, and make meaningful contributions to their school and community. As a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, **James** incorporates project-based learning and career-connected experiences across all her courses. Her commitment to service extends outside of FCCLA, as she also serves as the president of Little Givers Magic Market – a no-cost shopping experience for children, allowing them to select gifts for loved ones during the holiday season.

Hoyer and **James** have both been awarded a \$1,000 prize by the national organization in recognition of their outstanding service and will be honored at the upcoming National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., where one student and one adviser will be named FCCLA Member of the Year and Adviser of the Year.

Learn more about FCCLA opportunities on the [Wisconsin FCCLA website](#).

~WAFCS Foundation~

The **WAFCS Foundation** gratefully acknowledges donations they have received since July 1, 2025 totaling **\$1,542.50**.

- In Memory of Fred Powell:
 - **Jean Zeithaml, Mary Kennedy, Barbara George, Cindy Quilling and Cathy Lader**
- Commemorating Cathy Lader's Leader Award:
Jeanne Schwass Long
- In Recognition of New Achiever, Amber Miller:
Susan Turgeson
- In Honor of WAFCS President, Cathy Lader:
Barbara George and Susan Turgeson

Additional donations were received from the following donors.

**Donna Dinco
Terri Check
Janet Powell
Monica Schober
Carol Anderson
Sue Buck
Chris Kniep
Rita Houser
Jean Brew
Jean Zeithaml
Mary Kennedy
Anonymous**

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