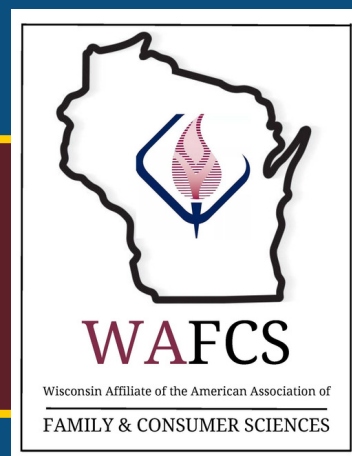


WAFCS News – June, 2026

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES



AAFCS Annual Conference Highlights



Lifetime Legacy Award Carol L. Anderson, CFCS - 2026 Recipient

A dedicated and engaged professional, Carol began her career as a 4-H member at age 10. Her entrance into the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Home Economics, Fall 1961 opened doors to numerous opportunities. Throughout her career, she consistently demonstrated a commitment to serving her profession through innovative and meaningful contributions. She is recognized as a knowledgeable, compassionate, and diligent leader who demonstrates genuine concern for colleagues and stakeholders.

Her career included working as an Extension Home Economist, Extension Specialist and faculty member, Assistant State Leader, Assistant Dean – College of Human Ecology, Associate Director – Cornell Cooperative Extension and faculty member.

She has held leadership positions in affiliates across Iowa, New York, and Wisconsin, with a particular emphasis on public policy. Her passion for policy led to her election to the Iowa County Board of Supervisors following retirement. Her involvement with AHEA, AAFCS, IFHE, and IFHE-US created valuable opportunities for leadership development. During her tenure as AAFCS President, the initial FCS Body of Knowledge was created, and the integration of CIP codes between secondary and higher education was finally achieved.



Emmalee Johnson AAFCS Student Unit Officer

Congratulations, Emmalee, on being elected to be one of three AAFCS Student Unit Officers!



The AAFCS All-Star Affiliate Award

Introduced in 2026 the Wisconsin affiliate was recognized as an Affiliate who has demonstrated good governance and commitment to our membership and the FCS profession!

Thank You to the Executive Board Retiring Officers!

Sue Strutz Tribute by Cathy Lader



Sue Strutz, CFCS, has served on the Executive Board for the past three years with a vision for WAFCS of providing quality programs for FCS professionals and being of service to communities. The Thursday tours and workshops at the 2026 WAFCS Annual Conference were organized by Sue. She is masterful in establishing partnerships with businesses, such as Seats Manufacturing in Reedsburg, to showcase the economic impact of FCS careers. Collaborating with others and being a team player are priorities for her. She has planned the WAFCS service project for two years and connected with local nonprofit community groups.

As a 2022 AAFCS Teacher of the Year Merit Finalist her focus was sustainability and encouraging students to think critically about their food choices. Sue has been a presenter at countless workshops including at WAFCS. She was selected as a participant in Farm Culinary 101 at Quillisascut Farm School of Domestic Arts (Rice, WA) and the FDA/NSTA Professional Development Week (DC). Her passion for pursuing untapped resources to share with FCS professionals has benefitted many. WAFCS thanks Sue for her dedicated service.

Susan Turgeson Tribute by Jean Zeithaml

For the past 26 years, Susan Turgeson, with great skill and dedication, has performed the responsibilities as Treasurer of WAFCS and the WAFCS Foundation. More than just the “nuts and bolts” of managing the finances, it was Susan’s vision and genuinely having the best interest of WAFCS members -especially students- that were her greatest contributions. She helped transform WAFCS into an exemplary state affiliate.

As Foundation assets grew, Susan initiated innovative ways to offer support for our members and students. She always had her finger on the pulse of the needs of students and young professionals and brought those ideas to the Foundation. She was also instrumental in envisioning how the Foundation went from offering one \$300 undergraduate scholarship to awarding as much as \$10,000 annually! On behalf of the Foundation, thank you, Susan, for your visionary, capable leadership and for continuing to serve in the newly created position of WAFCS Foundation Finance Manager.



Judy Knudsen Tribute by Chris Kniep



Judy Knudsen is a 43-year member of WAFCS/AAFCS. She has served in multiple leadership roles in WAFCS, including officer positions, annual conference chair and continues to work on committees such as the Bylaw/Policies Committee. In 2011 Judy was recognized for her work and contributions with the WAFCS/AAFCS Leader Award.

Judy started her Extension career in Montana, moving to Brown County WI in 1990. During her years in Brown County roles included Home Economist/Family Living Educator, County Department Head, ending her career there in 2024 as Regional Director for Brown, Door, and Kewaunee Counties. Judy achieved the rank of Professor in the Department of Family Development, championing faculty work at the county level. This work was recognized with the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Past President/New Professional Award, Distinguished Service Award and Continued Excellence Award.

Judy keeps very busy in her retirement involved with Ascension Lutheran church in Green Bay. For about 20 years she has led a group at church called Christ Care bible study. She also works at a food pantry every Monday morning, gives countless hours to the ADRC in Green Bay leading book club and teaching classes to help caregivers. She sews tops for her church ladies and is a, Brown County Fair superintendent. Travel is another one of her true passions.

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Executive Board

President – Jenny Wehmeier
President Elect – Sadie Hooker
Past President – Cathy Lader
Secretary – Rebecca Marquard
Treasurer – Ryan Lehman
VP of Awards and Recognition – Tara Weber
VP of Prof Dev– Jenny Marx
VP of Tech and Comm – Amber Miller
Membership Chairperson – Kelly Yeakey

Remember the 2026 Emerging FCS Teacher Summer Institute

July 21-22, 2026 – [Register Here](#)



**Emerging
FCS Teacher**
SUMMER INSTITUTE



A two-day summer institute featuring dynamic, hands-on
professional development sessions in Family and Consumer Sciences

During this past year the WAFCS Executive Board members have worked on behalf of the profession and WAFCS to provide opportunities to enhance our learning and achievements. How do they find the time to fulfill their leadership roles for WAFCS? At times it seemed as though many of them had more than twenty-four hours in their day. Many of them work fulltime as teachers plus advise FCCLA chapters and we know how demanding those schedules can be. The retirees on the board are community oriented, serving on numerous nonprofit boards and volunteering. It is through the organization, rigorous work ethic, and dedication to the FCS profession that the WAFCS Executive Board members complete tasks related to their board position/office. Let's take the time to reach out and show our appreciation during the summer. A truly great board member is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.

"Connecting FCS Professionals, Enriching Lives"
Cathy Lader, 2026 President
Wisconsin Association of Family & Consumer Sciences



President Cathy

Help Wanted!
WAFCS is looking for our next
CO-CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP!

A great opportunity to connect, lead, and
make a difference
in Family and Consumer Sciences!

- WELCOME** new members and help them feel at home in WAFCS.
- ENCOURAGE** membership growth and retention.
- COLLABORATE** with the WAFCS Executive Board and members.

STRONGER TOGETHER. BETTER TOGETHER.

GROW INTO LEADERSHIP!
SHADOW. LEARN. LEAD.
Shadow the current Membership Chair this year and step into the role *next year!*

Whether you are a longtime member or looking to become more involved, we'd love to have you join our leadership team!

Interested?
For more information or to express interest, please contact Kelly Yeakey, CFCS at kelly.yeakey123@gmail.com.

IN SYMPATHY

WAFCS extends it's sympathy to the family of Elaine Staalnd, former DPI FCS Consultant and FCCLA State Adviser.

Honoring
Elaine Staalnd

Former FCS Education Consultant and first Health Sciences Consultant at WI DPI
Co-Founder of the WI FCCLA Foundation