



SUMMER 2026

OHCE OUTREACH NUMBER 2

OUTREACH VOLUME 35

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING

TO YOU FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

Weren't the district meetings great? It was a wonderful opportunity for me to travel to all four as state president and I can say they all were top notch. We were surrounded by superheroes at the SE meeting at McAlester, had an outdoor adventure at the SW meeting at Quartz Mt. Park, an indoor picnic at the NW meeting at Seiling and took a ride on a "STEAM" engine at the NE meeting at Cushing. Thank you April Green, Tammy Watts, Sheila Blankenship and Pat McNally, district representatives, for your leadership and thank you to all the hard-working OHCE members in the host counties for providing a pleasant experience for the rest of us.

The OHCE State Conference is coming up July 12-13-14. I know that our Vice-president for Programs, Janet Cunningham has great plans and I'm excited. To celebrate our country's 250th anniversary the theme this year is patriotic so I will be wearing some red, white and blue and I hope you will, too.

I'm winding down my term as state president. In case I don't get to see you at the state conference, I want you to know how much I appreciate you for the opportunity to serve in this office. It has been quite the experience. There have been times when I thought I must have been crazy to attempt this, but mostly it has been fun. I have gotten acquainted with some great OHCE members. I hope to see you soon.

Mildred Taylor, OHCE State President



Greetings from the FCS Extension State Office!

Looking Ahead to Summer and Staying Connected

I truly enjoyed the spring district meetings, as always. Those gatherings are a reminder that OHCE is more than an organization, it is a network of people committed to learning, serving, and improving the lives of others. I appreciate the conversations, the sharing of ideas, and the pride you take in your local work. I am already looking forward to our July meeting and the opportunity to be together again. As we move into summer, your work does not slow down. Across Oklahoma, OHCE members continue to lead educational programs, support local initiatives, and respond to the needs they see in their own communities. Whether it is supporting family well-being, promoting health, or stepping in to meet a local need, your efforts reflect the very best of community-based education.

Summer is also a good time to be intentional about strengthening your clubs. Consider how you are engaging new members, how you are mentoring emerging leaders, and how you are telling your story locally. The work you do deserves to be seen and understood. Your ability to adapt, lead, and stay relevant is what ensures OHCE continues to thrive.

Thank you for the leadership you provide and the difference you make every day. I look forward to continuing this work together and to seeing many of you again in July.

GINA PEEK, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE DEAN

Extension and Engagement

College of Education and Human Sciences

405.744.6280 • 135 Nancy Randolph Davis • education.okstate.edu



2026 SE District Meeting Calling All Super Heroes™

The Southeast District OHCE Meeting brought 307 members to McAlester on March 10 for a lively, superhero-themed day of learning and fellowship. While not officially a record, the large turnout created an exciting, high-energy atmosphere.

This year's host counties—Pittsburg, Haskell, and Latimer—truly rose to the occasion. Their warm hospitality, smooth organization, and attention to detail were praised throughout the evaluations, with many attendees noting how well the superhero theme carried through the entire event.

Participants especially enjoyed the workshops, food, and fellowship, and many shared that they plan to use the skills they learned in their homes, clubs, and communities.

Highlights of the day included:

- Engaging workshops that offered practical, take-home skills
- A strong sense of fellowship and fun, fitting for a superhero-themed gathering
- Delicious Italian food and friendly volunteers
- Opportunities to reconnect with longtime friends and meet new members
- A positive, upbeat atmosphere that made the day feel special

Many attendees expressed that they planned to put their new knowledge to use—continuing the superhero spirit of service and leadership.

Overall, the event was a super success, celebrating the everyday heroes who make OHCE strong across the Southeast District.

JoeAnn Vermillion
SE District Representative

2026 Southwest District Meeting

Our Southwest District Meeting took place on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Quart Mountain State Park Lodge. We explored many adventurous workshops per our theme "The Adventure Continues".

Starting our adventure on Thursday, March 12th, Paula Stafford called for our BINGO event! She also recognized our theme, by calling different animals and parks for the letters, like Bald Eagle for B, or Niagara Falls for N. We had 87 attendees at our Bingo event with multiple winners. I also think it is safe to say everyone went to their rooms with a few more laugh lines and memories to share!

The Adventure continued Friday the 13th with a remarkable breakfast that fit everyone's morning needs. From biscuits and gravy to scrambled eggs, fresh fruit and of course LOTS of coffee.

We had a total of 152 registrants and 141 participants. The 16 workshops ranged from Air Fryer Basics to Native American Ribbon Work. Multiple attendees walked away with the knowledge of a new skill, how to perform that new skill as well as the resources to share with others.

We've received valuable feedback and praise from all those who attended this conference. Thank you to the multiple hosting counties for continuing the adventure of OHCE. Everyone walked away with new friends and memories to last a lifetime.

Canadian, Custer and Grady Counties will be hosting the 2027 Southwest District Meeting that will tentatively be held at the First Baptist Church in Chickasha, Friday March 5, 2027.

Amber Hall
Southwest District Representative

2026 West North DISTRICT MEETING

The West District North Region held the 2026 meeting on Saturday, March 28th in Seiling, OK.

We had 155 attendees and offered 19 different workshops during the day including Cupcake Canvas, Make and Take Floral, Native American Bead Work and Relax Your Way to Better Blood Pressure. The meeting received overall positive feedback and members enjoyed having the meeting on Saturday. Host counties for the 2026 meeting were Ellis, Dewey and Woodward, and they did an excellent job with decorating, organizing and planning the food options.

The 2027 West District North Region Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2027 in Alva, OK at the campus of Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Host counties will be Alfalfa, Garfield, Grant and Woods. Their next planning meeting is scheduled for April 29 in Alva.

Brandy Jones, West District North Region Representative

2026 – NORTHEAST DISTRICT OHCE MEETING

Hosted by Pawnee and Payne Counties, "STEAMing into the Future with OHCE" took place March 31 at the First United Methodist Church in Cushing. As the attendees gathered in the round sanctuary with beautiful stained glass windows, the delightful pipe organ music played by Connie Fuss, Pawnee County set the stage for a day filled with joy, endless smiles, lots of learning and a delicious BBQ lunch.

From working steam engines to gut microbiomes, Abe Lincoln to Pistol Pete, painted quilts to Native American ribbon work, Stem Fun to starting your own business. The NE District OHCE meeting offered thirty educational workshops to the 320 attendees, including members, educators, and guests. We were very appreciative of so many presenters being involved in providing such an array of educating topics.

Congratulations to our District Award winners! Young Member: Jessie Little, Cherokee County, Rookie Member: April Costner, Cherokee County, Heart of OHCE: Susie Eden, Cherokee County, and OHCE Member: Connie Wells, Rogers County. Nineteen county winners were in contention for the awards – congratulations to all for the powerful impacts you have had on your programs, families, and communities.

Pat McNally, Payne County, was elected to serve as the NE District OHCE Representative for the next two years. The 2027 District Meeting will be hosted by Osage, Tulsa and Washington Counties—their Silent Auction and County Store were off the charts fantastic. Accolades to Pawnee and Payne members for planning and producing an incredible experience for each and all. Hang on, because OHCE is STEAMing into the future!

Pat McNally, NE District OHCE Representative



2026 President-Elect

This year as President-Elect has truly flown by! I thought I might take a moment to share a little about myself. I was born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma. Yes, I'm a Sooner fan. I've been married to my very patient husband, Joe, for 43 years. We have two wonderful children, a son and a daughter both married to the loves of their lives, and four grandchildren, three girls and one boy that keeps us very busy.

When my children were in school, I was highly active in PTA and Booster Clubs. Once they were well established in elementary school, I began working full-time outside the home as a paralegal. During that time, my husband and I ventured into our first business together. I continued working until I had to retire due to debilitating rheumatoid arthritis. After some time, we started our second and third businesses, a retail store and a rental business and I returned to work. Today, I work part-time managing people, accounts, taxes, payroll, and consulting for our truly "Mom-and-Pop" small businesses.

I have always had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a passion for sharing what I've learned with others. My OHCE journey began over 24 years ago when I joined the Hopewell group in Cleveland County, where my family legacy started. I am a third-generation member, and it has been incredibly meaningful to see my daughter and now my oldest granddaughter join as well. Over the years, I have served Hopewell in all elected offices and committees. At the OHCE county level, I have served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian, and chaired numerous committees. At the state level, I have served on the Promotional Sales Committee, Historian, Treasurer, and now as President-Elect.

Through OHCE, I have met incredible people from across the state, people I might never have crossed paths with otherwise, and my life is richer because of those connections. I encourage all members to take a chance and try something new. OHCE has so much to offer, not only locally but statewide. Consider joining the state board, make new friends and have fun new experiences!

Now that you know me a bit better, personally, and professionally, and have seen my OHCE journey, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude. Thank you to all those who believe in me, encourage me, hold me accountable and support me, now and along the way. Each of you has contributed meaningfully to who I am and who I aspire to be. Every position I've held has taught me something valuable. I am deeply honored to assume the role of State President and look forward to serving our organization with integrity and commitment.

Shem Hamil, President Elect



We Want You at the 2026 State OHCE Meeting!

The Public Relations and Recruitment Committee is gearing up for an exciting 2026 State OHCE meeting and an unforgettable silent auction event! With this year's theme, "We Want You!", we are celebrating the power of involvement and the incredible impact each member brings to OHCE.

Just like the classic call to action, OHCE needs YOU—your ideas, your talents, and your dedication—to continue strengthening our organization and the communities we serve. Whether you're a bidder, donor, volunteer, or enthusiastic supporter, your participation helps make OHCE thrive. Together, we build stronger programs, stronger friendships, and stronger communities.

As we continue to grow, we also encourage members to become part of our Ambassador organization. A donation of \$10 or more secures your membership as an Ambassador, while a \$25 donation or greater makes you eligible to apply for grants that support projects and initiatives within your county. Membership forms will be available at this year's state meeting, so be sure to stop by and become part of the effort that keeps OHCE moving forward.

Now let's talk about the silent auction baskets! This is your chance to show off the creativity and talents that make OHCE members so special. With the theme "We Want You!", think about baskets that highlight what makes your county or club unique and inviting. Registration instructions have been sent to each county, but you can also use this link, <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/zLq6p7uZ2j>, or the attached convenient QR code to register your basket quickly and easily. Just scan the code and follow the link to complete the process.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the Ambassador program over the years. Your generosity and commitment continue to make a difference in the success of OHCE programs across the state.

So mark your calendars and start planning—because we want YOU to be part of the 2026 State OHCE Meeting and Silent Auction!

We can't wait to see you there!

On behalf of the CE=FCS Ambassadors Public Relations and Recruitment Committee

Stacey Dawson

FCS Educator, Creek County

17806 W. Hwy. 66, Kellyville, OK 70439

918-224-2192, stacey.dawson@okstate.edu

Ambassadors Silent Auction 2026



State Project 2026 Spring Article

When you read this, all of the committees will have met in April 2026 on the state level and will have evaluated the wonderful submissions from county members across the state to be considered for awards. These awards for the State Project were evaluated based on the 2025 objectives:

Our goal is to take the first step to strengthen community well-being for all Oklahomans.

The State Project is about promoting awareness and advocating for education:

- Encourage each county to establish a State Project Chairperson and Committee.
- Promote walkability of your community environments.
- Increase affordable access to healthy food.
- Recognize risk factors that lead to chronic conditions.
- Create activities that are guided by state leader lessons and goals.

Congratulations to those whose notebooks were selected for accommodation! 2025 was a great year to **TAKE THE FIRST STEP!**

As you continue in 2026 toward this year's project, keep in mind that it is to be achievable **AND** measurable as it relates to **YOUR** community resources and who you can develop partnerships with along the way. Once again, don't forget to consider all aspects of the need you have identified: financial, mental, physical, spiritual, or emotional whether for self, loved ones or others.

The NEW objectives were shared in the August 2025 newsletter for the 2026 State Project as such: **"Minding Your Mind: Keys to Thriving Through Life"**

Our goal is to strengthen the mental well-being for all Oklahomans throughout the lifespan.

The State Project is about promoting awareness and advocating for education related to **mental** fitness:

- Encourage each county to establish a State Project Chairperson and Committee
 - Report their name and contact information to State Project Chairman
- Evaluate and promote social engagement within the community
 - Encourage membership and active involvement in a community organization
- Prioritize food choices and active living to support a healthy mind
 - Recognize ultra-processed foods as a detriment to health
 - Identify opportunities in communities for physical activity
- Identify risk factors that lead to mental decline
 - Medications and medication interactions
 - Physical inactivity
 - Social isolation
 - Unhealthy food choices
- Recognize signs and symptoms of mental decline
 - Seek out community resources for assistance in diagnosis
 - Seek out resources for caregiver and self-care support
- Create activities that are guided by state and leader lessons and goals.

Please know you can reach out to an OSU Education Specialist to assist with educational activities to implement action items above:

Tammy Perry, Area Health Disparities Specialist NE District

tammy.perry@okstate.edu

Megan Monteith, Ph.D., Area Health Disparities Specialist SW District

Megan.monteith@okstate.edu

Kelsey Ratcliff, Area Health Disparities, Specialist SE District

Kelsey.ratcliff@okstate.edu

Deana Hildebrand, Ph.D., R.D., Community Health Extension State Program Lead

Deana.hildebrand@okstate.edu

I'll am signing off as the State Project Committee Chair as a new OHCE member will step in to guide you in the remainder of 2026 and beyond. It has been a pleasure serving in this role.



Gina Flesher, OHCE State Project Chair

Technology Update

I will be giving a workshop at the State Meeting regarding Publisher. If you use Publisher, you need to plan to come to my workshop as Microsoft will no longer support Publisher as of October, 2026. This means that as of that date, any PUB files will no longer be able to be opened. I will guide you through the process to prepare for this event.

Pat Chapman

State Technology Coordinator



AWARDS AND REPORTS

Congratulations District Award Winners!

District meetings have concluded and I have truly enjoyed attending each one. Congratulations to the District Member Award Winners:

Northeast District:

- Young Member – Jessie Little
- Rookie – April Costner
- Member – Connie Wells
- Heart – Susie Eden

Southeast District:

- Young Member – Elizabeth

Tunender

- Rookie – Pat Montgomery
- Member – Ann Woodrow
- Heart – Javonna Earsom

West District, North Region:

- Rookie – Jamie Wilson
- Member – Dr. Ashley Cowan

Neal

- Heart – Sharon Gilchrist

West District, South Region:

- Rookie – Vickie Taylor
- Member – Emma Bingham
- Heart – Lowayne Piercy

Each nominee will be honored and the state winners announced at the Friendship Banquet on Monday night of the State meeting in July. There will be special seating arranged for you at the front. Also by the time you receive this newsletter your Project Reports have been judged. Winners in each category will be notified by e-mail and given their awards at the Tuesday morning Awards Ceremony. Get your registration in so you can be present to receive your award.

Pat Chapman

State Awards and Reports Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The State Membership Committee has a few important reminders for you.

The first is that this year's OHCE WEEK REPORTS are not due until February 1st, 2027. So, take this extra time, gather your information, and prepare a great report.

Our second reminder is in regard to the 50-60-70 Year MEMBERSHIP & GROUPS CERTIFICATES. These certificate forms are due June 1st. For Membership, we're looking for the years 1975, 1965, 1955. For Groups we are looking for the years 1975, 1965, and 1955. After reaching 70 years (1955) groups can be recognized every 5 years.

Although the due date is June 1st, I ask you to send them in as soon as you can. Send a copy to fcs.extension@okstate.edu and dcburksnana@gmail.com

Have a great summer. We hope to see you at the state meeting in July.

Dorothy C Burks
Membership Chairman
119 Farris Place
Chickasha, OK 73018



PROMOTIONAL SALES

Hello everyone, It was great seeing you all at the district meetings, Next will be the State Mtg in July. We now take cash app for those who do not bring cash. I will be having new items so come by and see me. If you have something you would like me to carry please let me know. I sold a lot of patches for the hat competition so don't forget to bring those hats with you, I'm looking to see a room full. There will be new price sheets in the voting delegate seats and given to the Educators. If you need something from promotional sales let me know at ohcepromotionsales@gmail.com. I mail out orders once a week.

Mary Bacon
Promotional Sales Chairman

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Hello everyone, hope you enjoyed your District meetings. Spring is in the air, and gardening is starting. I'm looking forward to our State meeting in July. With that being said, I am doing something new this year for the Remembrance Program. There will be a decorated table with placards with our members' names that we lost this past year, along with a card for you to write something about the member(s) you knew. The main thing is we need all names submitted by June 1, 2026, to your county FCS educator so they can come to Susan Routh and me. This ensures nobody's name is left out. I'm looking forward to doing this so we may all learn more about our lost members'. Have a great summer and hope to see you in July.

Jacque Compton
Chaplain



STATE TREASURERS REPORT

It was refreshing to see so many of you at the district meetings! I hope you learned and enjoyed the workshops. I had a blast at all of the district meetings and am eager to see you all at the state meeting in July.

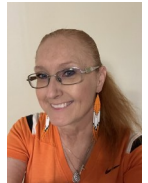
Dr. Peek and I will be hosting a workshop at the state meeting to inform the treasurers how to manage taxes and the 990N forms that the groups must fill out annually. Are you anxious or feeling lost with this subject? Make sure to attend our workshop so you will be in the know and ready to tackle this task in January.

Treasurers, please make sure you send a copy of the roster with the proper forms and check out electronically. I have several counties I don't have up to date rosters for at the present and will be contacting you to get those.

We currently have 2,787 members and a total of 237 groups.

Please contact me if you have any questions or issues. Hope to see you as all at the state meeting!

Angie Hudson
OHCE State Treasurer
329274 E 1070 Rd
McLoud, OK 74851
(405) 826-3269



Volunteer Update from Suzette Barta

Here are some summer dates of interest to Volunteers.

June 26-27: Oklahoma Conference on Volunteerism in Stillwater. Join 4-H Volunteers, Master Gardeners, educators, and specialists for this inaugural conference that celebrates Extension and volunteerism.

July 7 at 7pm: The Virtual OHCE group, The Zoomers, will have their annual summer book discussion over the book, *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. In honor of America's 250th birthday, we will read and discuss this well-researched historical fiction novel that tells the fascinating story of Thomas Jefferson's eldest daughter, Martha "Patsy" Jefferson Randolph. All are welcome to join the discussion. Contact suzette.barta@okstate.edu for the Zoom link.

July 12-14: OHCE State Meeting in OKC. I'll see you there. The State Leader Lessons are "Neurodivergence. What in the world is it?" and "Dancing for the Health of It or Dance Like No One's Watching!"

August 1: All Extension Volunteers, including Master FCS, Master Sewing, Master Food Preserver, Master Gardener, and 4-H may begin their annual enrollment process through Z-Suite.

Suzette Barta, PHD
Community Engagement and
Student Coordinator



Family Enhancement

The Family Enhancement committee has received and will be judging 21 Family Enhancement projects, 7 Military projects, and 22 Life stories.

Looking forward to reading about all the exciting county and local HCE projects around the state. Be sure to sign up for the state meeting in July to find out about all the winning projects as well as meeting up with friends and enjoying all the amazing workshops. See you in OKC.

Cindy Conner
Family Enhancement Chair



A NOTE FROM STATE HISTORY

I had the honor of installing the 4 District Representatives this year and had the opportunity to visit with so many of you. Just a reminder that if you have any items we need to save at the State level, please contact me. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the July State meeting. Thank you for the items I've received so far.

Shirley Burnett
State Historian



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resource Management Committee extends sincere gratitude to everyone who submitted reports this year. We evaluated four County and nine Local reports, and we hope to see even greater participation next year.

Once work or an event is completed, I encourage everyone to write the report immediately. There is no need to wait for the deadline, and your dedicated FCS Educators will certainly appreciate your timely submissions.

It has come to my attention that many groups and counties are engaged in activities that would make excellent project reports. However, these projects often go undocumented due to a lack of time or motivation to write the reports. Some believe that report writing is a waste of time, but I believe that not reporting the work is a greater loss. The effort put into meaningful projects deserves to be recognized and shared.

If you have questions about writing a report or are unsure whether your work can be turned into a report, I am happy to assist. Although it is not part of my official responsibilities as Resource Management Committee Chair, I am glad to help in any way I can. Reporting on the valuable work of OHCE members ensures that everyone is aware of the great contributions being made.

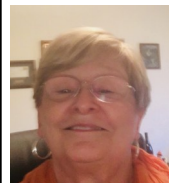
Tammy Elliott
Resource Management Chairman



LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Leadership Committee conducted workshops in our districts. We appreciate your attending these workshops, All Aboard the OHCE Train. This workshop is an excellent recruiting tool as it shows the structure of OHCE and is a great tool to share with your community how OHCE enhances your community and district. Our sincere thanks to our Committee Member Alayna Huber for combining the committees into this presentation. Also, it demonstrates the opportunities for OHCE members to become involved in the county, district, and state. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please let us know and we will send you a copy. I sincerely want to thank the members of the Leadership Committee, Shirley Ely, Alayna Huber, and Donna Dodd for their dedication and support of OHCE Leadership!

As we bring a new OHCE year, remember to keep on leading for OHCE!



Dee Porter,
Leadership Chair

News from your ACWW Coordinator:

As you are reading this, I will be in Ottawa, Canada, attending the ACWW Triennial. I wish you could all be with me. It is so inspiring. More news on the Triennial next time. As I had mentioned in the last newsletter, Oklahoma is hosting the Country Women's Counsel General Meeting (CWC) on September 19-22, 2027. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Downtown, 741 N. Phillips in Oklahoma City. The last time we hosted the CWC Meeting was 2015 in Tulsa. We need every county to help out either financially or donations of items for the silent auction (small items that can be packed in a suitcase as many will be flying), as well as prizes for the game night of BINGO. This will be our 2nd year to have ads put in our program. Become a page sponsor to help cover costs of the meeting or a business you know.

Platinum Sponsor (full page)
Gold Sponsor (1/2 page)
Silver Sponsor (1/4 page)
Bronze Sponsor (name listed)

We also need 12 table centerpieces with a western theme. The centerpieces will be voted on by those attending the meeting for a little fun competition. We will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The centerpieces are yours to take home, or you can donate them for a door prize. At the moment we have the following counties doing a centerpiece: Cleveland, McCurtain, Noble, Okmulgee, and Sequoyah. We need 7 more counties to provide centerpieces. Please contact me at motedebbie@gmail.com, or 580-336-8860. Leave a message and I will return your call.



Debbie Phillips
ACWW Coordinator

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Congratulations to the 2026-2028 District Representatives! Newly Elected Representatives are: JoeAnn Vermillion, SE District; Amber Hall, SW District; Brandy Jones, NW District; and Pat McNally, NE District.

The final Nominating Committee meeting was held during the State Board meeting on Friday, April 24th. The committee diligently evaluated all submissions and made final decisions. The Nominating Committee selected Gina Flesher from Stephens County, SW District for State Secretary to be nominated during the State Business meeting at the State Conference in July. All other even-year officer and committee appointments were filled, and the new slate of State Board members was approved by the Board. I'm excited to welcome 10 new, first-time members to the State Board!

I would like to sincerely thank my committee, Shirley Burns, Marilyn Gibson, and Doris Johnston for their dedication, wisdom, and leadership over the last two years. It has been my honor to serve with each of you! I also thank President Mildred Taylor; President Elect Shem Hamil; and the FCS District Program Specialists whose valuable input was also part of the evaluation and decision process. I appreciate you all! A huge "Thank you" goes to all members who submitted paperwork for these even-year board positions. A strong OHCE needs a strong State Board. Each returning and new State Board member has stepped up into another level of leadership. Each board member brings unique skills and talents that strengthen the State Board and OHCE groups and counties across Oklahoma. Thank you for your leadership and service!

Another opportunity to submit paperwork for the State Board will be coming soon. Watch for further information in the Fall Outreach Newsletter.

Submitted by:

Kathy Fentress, Nominating Chair

Shirley Burns, Committee Member

Marilyn Gibson, Committee Member

Doris Johnston, Committee Member



Proposed By-Law Change

At the April 24, 2026 state board meeting, the By-laws Committee presented this proposed change to the by-laws Equal Employment Opportunity statement. The board voted to add the proposal to the State OHCE Conference Business Meeting agenda for July 13, 2025 to be voted on by the OHCE membership.

By-laws Change

Current Statement

Article III – Membership

SECTION 1. The membership of the Oklahoma Home and Community Education, Incorporated, shall consist of all county organizations for Home and Community Education whose membership support and advance its objectives and whose bylaws do not conflict with those of the parent organization. The Oklahoma Home and Community Education, Incorporated does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status in any of its policies, practices, or procedures.

Proposed Statement

Article III – Membership

Section 1. OHCE adopts the current OSU Extension EEO statement.

Submitted by Mildred Taylor, OHCE State President



The OHCE State Conference is almost here, and remember, **OHCE WANTS YOU!**



OHCE will be celebrating its accomplishments this past year and also the semiquincentennial of our great country! Make plans now to join us in Oklahoma City on July 12-14.

Attend this year's conference if you are looking for celebrations, great sessions and fun! Registration is \$125 and includes Monday and Tuesday luncheons and the Friendship Banquet on Monday evening. I would encourage you to come in on Sunday evening and join us for additional fun for just \$10 more. You must add this to your registration! **The deadline for registration is June 18th.** No refunds after June 18; and late registration increases to \$155. Register NOW!

All conference activities will take place once again at the Champion Convention Center. Reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn next door can be made by calling (405) 942-1400; be sure to designate OHCE to receive discounted rates of: Single \$116; Double \$126; Triple \$136; Quad \$146. A full breakfast buffet is included. **WE NEED TO FILL OUR ROOM BLOCK! The deadline for the discounted rates is Friday, June 18th at 5:00 p.m. CALL NOW!**

Registration can be made online using our secure OSU online process to pay by credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express accepted). Use the QR code at the end of this article, and it will take you directly to the registration page. You will receive an order/receipt email when you place your order. Please watch for a second confirmation email 1-2 days later. For registration questions, contact OSU Ag Conferences, (405) 744-6489, agconferences@okstate.edu.

Registration will start at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening at the Convention Center. At 6:30 p.m., we will be playing music bingo (bingo with a fun twist), making friends and winning prizes all for just \$10. This is such a fun way to start the conference! Those who attend on Sunday will receive a challenge sheet that will be turned in on Tuesday morning. Prizes for winners will be distributed at Tuesday's luncheon. You must attend the Sunday evening event to be eligible for the challenge!

After the complimentary full breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn, conference activities begin on Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. with the First-Timers' session. Voting Delegate Orientation and Hostess Orientation start at 8:00 a.m. Voting delegates must be in your assigned county seats in the front of Salons B C D by 8:55 a.m. with the Business Meeting starting promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Winning Life Story Essays will be read during the Monday luncheon! At the Friendship Banquet, the OHCE Member Awards nominees will be recognized and winners will be named. We are so pleased to welcome OSU First Lady Angela Hess as our speaker! The banquet concludes with Vespers as we remember fellow OHCE members who have passed during the last year. Following Vespers, incoming OHCE President Shem Hamil will be honored with a reception in the Rosewood Room at the hotel. Also, the second annual "Games and Gab" will be held in the Hotel Lobby for those of you looking for more fun and opportunities to reconnect with friends and/or make new ones. Bring your favorite group game to share.

On Tuesday, we will announce and celebrate our Outstanding Report Winners beginning at 8:45 a.m. Pat Chapman will share the winning reports; and our 50+ year members and groups will also be recognized. During the Tuesday luncheon, Sunday Challenge winners will be announced along with winners of the hat decorating contest.

Let's make this year the best OHCE State Conference ever! All it takes is YOU! Register now and join the FUN!

Janet Cunningham,
Vice President for Programs





Hilton Garden Inn OKC Airport

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF I-40 AND MERIDIAN



Sunday, July 12th
Through Tuesday, July 14th



Hotel amenities include free parking, non-smoking rooms, fitness center and outdoor pool and whirlpool. Each room comes with free Wi-Fi, refrigerator, microwave, Keurig coffee maker, 40" remote TV, hair dryer, iron, and ironing board.

Hotel Reservations Telephone Number: 1-405-942-1400

Group Name: OHCE

Room Rates: Single \$116; Double \$126; Triple \$136 and Quad \$146 (plus tax on all rooms) Rate includes complimentary Hot Breakfast Buffet for each registered hotel guest at the Garden Grille' located in the hotel lobby.

Reservation deadline: June 18th by 5 p.m.

Hotel Address: 801 South Meridian Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK



The hotel sits adjacent to the Champion Convention Center, home to our 2025 State OHCE Conference.

Champion Convention Center 803 South Meridian Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73108.

OKLAHOMA HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION 2026 STATE CONVENTION TENTATIVE WORKSHOP LIST

Sunday Funday Session 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Come join the fun and kick off your conference! We will be playing music bingo (bingo with a fun twist), making friends and winning prizes all for just an additional \$10 payable with your online registration.

Monday and Tuesday Workshops

The Impact of AI on Individuals and Families	Matt Brosi, Lauren LaOrange & Taylor Broadway
Learn to Make a Wreath	Janet Blansett
Tech Boost II-Program End of Life-Now What?	Pat Chapman
Sew Cute!	Megan Ferrell & Susan Holliday
Soil Basics for Home Gardens and Landscapes	Dr. Bee Chim
Sew Much Fun!	Lynda Latta
Adult CPR	Gina Flesher
Neurodivergence. What in the World Is It?	Kelsey Ratcliff & Megan Monteith
Just Roll with It	Dea Rash & Trinity Brown
The History and Culture of Oklahoma	Elizabeth Jones
Safe Haven Baby Boxes	Gina Flesher
Dance Like No One's Watching	Megan Monteith & Kelsey Ratcliff
Master Sewing Volunteers Rock the State	Suzette Barta
How to Talk to Your Doctor	Heather Wingo
Healthier Food Pantries and How to Help the Food Pantry Near You	Nila Pradhananga
Food Art	Arleen James

The final workshop schedule, descriptions, and presenters will be listed in your OHCE Conference Program.

PLEASE HELP AS A HOSTESS!

Check the box "willing to serve as a hostess" on the Registration Form.

Hostess Orientation will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Monday.

Proposed Schedule of Events – At a Glance

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

LOCATION

2:30pm-4:00pm	State Pre-Conference Board Meeting	Salon A
6:00pm	Registration	Great Hall
6:30pm-8:00pm	Sunday Funday – must be pre-registered	Convention Center

Dinner on your own

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

7:00am-8:00am	Silent Auction items accepted	Great Hall
7:00am-5:30pm	Registration	Great Hall
7:00am-5:30pm	Hostess Desk and Promotional Sales	Great Hall
7:30am-8:00am	First Timers' Welcome and Orientation	Salon O
8:00am-8:30am	LDCE Session	Salon A
8:00am-8:30am	Voting Delegates' Session	Salon B C D
8:00am-4:30pm	Ambassadors' Silent Auction	Great Hall
8:00am-8:30am	Hostess Orientation	Salon O
9:00am-11:00am	Business Meeting	Salon B C D
11:15am-12:15pm	Learning Session I	
12:30pm-1:45pm	Luncheon	Salon H I
2:00pm-3:00pm	Learning Session II	
3:15pm-4:15pm	Learning Session III	
4:30pm	Last call for bidding on auction items	Great Hall
6:00pm-8:30pm	Friendship Banquet & Vespers	Salon H I
At conclusion	Release of auction Items	Great Hall
8:30pm	Incoming President's Reception	Hilton Garden Inn Rosewood Room
	Games & Gab	Hilton Garden Inn Lobby

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026

7:00am	Registration	Great Hall
7:00am-8:15am	Past Presidents' Breakfast	Hilton Garden Inn Boardroom
7:00am-2:30pm	Hostess Desk and Promotional Sales	Great Hall
8:00am	State Board Group Photo	Salon B C D
8:00am-8:45am	Educators' Session	Salon A
8:00am-2:30pm	Ambassador Grant Displays	Great Hall
8:45am-10:45am	Awards & Reports Ceremonies	Salon B C D
11:00am-12:00pm	Learning Session IV	
12:15pm-1:15pm	Luncheon	Salon H I
1:30pm-2:30pm	Learning Session V	
2:45pm-3:45pm	Post-Conference State Board Meeting	Salon A



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Okla. City, OK 731

Oklahoma Home and Community Education, Inc.
6520 Alameda Street
Norman, OK 73026

Oklahoma Outreach is published three times a year by Oklahoma Home and Community Education, Inc. (OHCE), is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is education, leadership development and community service. OHCE is one of the educational organizations sponsored by the Oklahoma Extension Cooperative Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. All members are invited to submit timely OHCE news items. Deadlines are the 1st of February, May and September. Editor reserves the right to edit all articles.

President Mildred Taylor
Editor Carol Doner

458748 E. 1000 Rd., Vian, OK 74962
6520 Alameda St, Norman, OK 73026

Email: ohcepresident35@gmail.com
Email: ohceeditor@gmail.com