Excitement is building for the 2016 Annual Conference. **Today is the last day to register without a late penalty of $25. Remember also to register for a room at the Radisson. Today is the last day that the block will be held.** We do understand that due to work and family situations some of you may need to register closer to the actual date of the conference. If that is the case for you, we welcome your registration even up to the day of the conference.

**Plans are now in place for the Thursday pre-conference activity.**

**Theme:** Advocacy and Political Engagement - Strategic Planning  
**Where:** Radisson Hotel,  
517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison, WI 53719  
**Time:** 10:00 - 2:00  
**Cost:** No cost except for lunch  

- Are you aware of the Assembly and Senate bills designed to change teacher licensure requirements in vocational areas including FCS?  
- Are you aware of the deep personnel cuts being made to UW-Extension including FCS Extension agents?

In today’s world of swift Legislative action making severe cuts to the Family and Consumer profession, it is time to act. The professional leaders from all aspects of FCS must work together on a **Strategic Plan with Advocacy for the profession at its core.** The plan put in place must be nimble at the grass roots level to counter or reinforce pending legislation. We must tell our story of the importance of FCS in enhancing the lives of society. We hope to connect with those in government that support us, the news outlets and those opposing our mission. If you have a stake here, please join us.

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E-mail Jeanne Schwass-Long at long608@att.net to participate!
Show Your Creativity at the 2016 WAFCS Annual Conference

ART AND DESIGN FOR 2016

The adult coloring book has taken over the art world this year. If this has been the extent of your dabbling in the world of art and design, we would like to see it at the 2016 Art and Design display. Other possibilities would be in the areas of quilting, clothing construction, costume design, jewelry design, interior design, knitting and crocheting, and many others too numerous to mention.

The items will be on display the same time the Foundation silent auction will take place. Send an email to Bev Braun so I have an idea of the amount of space needed. <bbraun5@new.rr.com>

Don’t forget to bring something special for the Silent Auction!!
This is a great time to “regift” and clean out your closets and drawers.

Student Unit Activities at the Conference:

The Student Unit invites you to visit their table and create one or two special cards for the Cardz for Kidz program.

This years Level 1 Service Outreach will be with the Cardz for Kidz program. This organization is dedicated to uplifting the spirits of hospitalized and/or traumatized children across the globe by delivering inspiring homemade cards. For more information about Cardz for Kidz, visit their website at http://cardzforkidz.org.

Do you have any extra, unused supplies lying around your house that you might contribute to this effort? If so, let Janet Powell know at executive director @wafcs.org Then, just bring them to the conference and turn them in at the registration table. Not going? Send them with someone who is attending.

Recommended Supplies:
Must Haves:
• Markers
• Card Stock or construction paper
• Glue Sticks
• Scissors
Linear (the more the better:
• Glitter glue
• Crayons
• Colored Pencils
• Magazines (for collages and/or cutting out words)
Delighters (people may not expect it, but truly enjoy it):
• Stickers
• Scissors that cut a jagged line
• Google eyes
• Stencils
• Pipe cleaners
• Fuzzy balls
• Tape
• Hot glue gun and glue

Also, Friday evening after the dinner speaker concludes, students will be holding a “Game Night”. All are welcome to join in. What’s your favorite game? Students will be bringing many different types of games.
A Message from your President: Mary Kennedy, CFCS

As the spring season approaches, take time for reflection and action with the new buds on trees and the flowers popping up in gardens. So it is with our professional and leadership skills and abilities.

In 1967, Helen R. LeBaron stated, “Opportunities for professional interaction in the practicing fields of education and service are limited only by the degree of our personal commitment and the vision we have for where it may take us”.

Have you personally taken advantage of the opportunities available through the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumers Sciences (WAFCS) organization in the following ways?

• Have you registered for the WAFCS Annual Meeting? If not, do so NOW!

• Considered an office on the WAFCS Board? If not, do consider the possibility. There are several leadership positions that can be filled. Remember there are always mentors to help! Call Jeanne Schwass-Long or me NOW. It’s truly a rewarding feeling of “growth” and “blossoming”, as well as “cultivating” a service to the WAFCS membership.

• Have you registered for the national AAFCS Annual Meeting? If not, do so by April 15th for the early bird registration rate.

• Have you received an award or foundation grant in the past? Expand your service with the many opportunities to present, nominate, plan meetings and/or serve on the board.

It only takes a small step into the “garden” to get you hooked into the benefits gained through professional interaction. With WAFCS, may you find richness from the “ground level up” to develop YOUR personal “bouquet” of professional and leadership success!

The Pirate’s Life for Me

When you think of behaving like a pirate, do you immediately want to make someone walk the plank or do you start singing “yo ho ho and a bottle of rum”? Neither of these actions are what Dave Burgess, the author of “Teach Like a Pirate” is advocating. Embracing the pirate spirit is to be willing to “venture forward without a clear map to explore new frontiers” (Burgess, 2012, xii). Burgess uses the acronym PIRATE to share his philosophy not only for teaching, but living and leading.

P – Passion, I-Immersion, R- Rapport, A- Ask/Analyze, T- Transformation, and E- Enthusiasm are all explained in Part I of the book. After attending a presentation by Burgess earlier this month, I can hear his voice coming from the pages. (Note: to truly recreate his exuberance, one must read very quickly!) If you ever get the chance to see him in person, all I can say is “Go!”, you won’t regret it.

It’s a great book to rediscover your passion and has great tips for crafting memorable lessons. Be daring and adventurous, seek the treasures in life, get yourself a loyal crew and you too, can live, lead, and teach like a pirate! Susan Turgeson Ed.D, CFCS
A Fantastic Summer Opportunity for Science, Family and Consumer Sciences and Health Teachers

Food-borne disease outbreaks and food recalls frequent the news. What organisms cause these diseases? What can an individual do to protect themselves from these diseases? What measures are being taken by the federal government to prevent transmission of these diseases?

Middle Level and High School science, health, and family and consumer science teachers have an opportunity to provide inquiry-based lessons related to these outbreaks and recalls. The lessons can be found in the curriculum Science and Our Food Supply developed jointly by FDA and NSTA. And, in order to prepare teachers to use these lessons, FDA provides a free multidimensional professional development program that will take place July 17 – 24, 2016 in Washington, DC. Included in the program is transportation to and from Washington and all housing and meal expenses.

During the program, selected teachers will participate in activities such as: meeting with FDA and USDA scientists to learn about their current research on food science; working with instructors at the microbiology lab at the University of Maryland to learn proper techniques to use in doing the microbiology labs with their own students; and, touring USDA's farm in Beltsville, MD. Selected teachers are asked to implement the curriculum in their classrooms during the 2016 – 2017 school year and to do a workshop on the curriculum for other teachers.

To apply online – deadline April 18, 2016 - go to: http://teachfoodscience.org/apply.asp
The Science and Our Food Supply middle level and high school teacher’s guides on which some of the application questions are based can be downloaded here - http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceResearch/ToolsMaterials/ucm2006976.htm. The newest component to our curriculum - Science and Our Food Supply: Using the Nutrition Facts Label to Make Healthy Choices, can also be downloaded from the same website - http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceResearch/ToolsMaterials/ucm2006976.htm.

Mimi Cooper FDA Summer Program Facilitator
St. Augustine, FL mimicooper@verizon.net 978-766-0107
http://teachfoodscience.org
http://www.fda.gov/teachsciencewithfood

Calendar of Events

March 31, 2016
• WAFCS Council Meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Radisson Hotel

April 1,2, 2016
• WAFCS Annual Conference
  Radisson Hotel, Madison

May 1, 2016
• Summer Newsletter deadline

June 22-25, 2016
• AAFCS Annual Conference, Bellevue, Washington

*Send newsletter info to: executivedirector@wafcs.org