

KEHA Building Blocks for Success

The Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and communities through leadership development, volunteer service, and education. KEHA has a rich history of community involvement and service built upon a grassroots base of members, clubs and county organizations. The structure of KEHA also includes area councils and a state board committed to looking to and preparing for the future of the organization.

Throughout the history of KEHA, the relationship with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has been an integral part of the organization. At the county level, Family and Consumer Sciences agents serve as educators and advisors and partner with KEHA members, clubs, and county leaders. From the university, support is provided to develop, implement and evaluate educational programs and service projects and to foster leadership development.

The strength of KEHA is built upon the roles individuals and groups play at various levels of the organization. Many people play a role – individual KEHA members, county KEHA leaders, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agents, area KEHA leaders, the KEHA state board, and Family and Consumer Sciences Extension state personnel– are six groups who play key roles in the organization. Six roles for each of these groups are listed and described below. The lists are by no way all inclusive, and many more terms could potentially be added to each list. These role terms describe key actions and responsibilities for each of the six groups. The groups are randomly listed, as are the roles described for each.

KEHA Members

- ✓ **Recruit** new members for the organization enthusiastically.
- ✓ **Nurture** fellow members to develop skills and knowledge to enhance their lives.
- ✓ **Participate** actively in KEHA.
- ✓ **Volunteer** in support of Extension programs, to strengthen your community, and to broaden outreach.
- ✓ **Learn** new skills and practices to improve yourself and your family.
- ✓ **Champion** Cooperative Extension, KEHA, and the importance of family programming in your community.

County KEHA Leaders

- ✓ **Promote** interest and involvement in the organization.
- ✓ **Implement** programs related to the state goals and objectives.
- ✓ **Establish** policies and procedures for the county organization.
- ✓ **Share** ideas from the county membership.
- ✓ **Partner** with Extension agents, local organizations, and other counties to implement programming and accomplish goals.
- ✓ **Connect** the county with the area council and KEHA State Board.

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents

- ✓ **Educate** KEHA members and the community about family and consumer issues.
- ✓ **Facilitate** leadership development, educational growth, and service opportunities.
- ✓ **Empower** members to be engaged in the organization and community.
- ✓ **Support** programs and activities of clubs and county organizations.
- ✓ **Communicate** information relevant to KEHA members.
- ✓ **Advise** county leadership in program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Area Leaders

- ✓ **Represent** the members in their area.
- ✓ **Serve** actively as members of committees and work groups.
- ✓ **Focus** members on the goals of the organization.
- ✓ **Inform** the KEHA State Board about local needs and interests and activities and accomplishments.
- ✓ **Correspond** with county leaders to encourage involvement and strong communication.
- ✓ **Advance** the relationship between county programming and the mission of KEHA.

KEHA State Board Members

- ✓ **Challenge** the organization to look to and prepare for the future.
- ✓ **Lead** activities and programs to support the mission of KEHA.
- ✓ **Strategize** effective approaches to reach goals.
- ✓ **Organize** program plans and activities related to the KEHA mission.
- ✓ **Develop** processes and procedures for smooth organizational operation.
- ✓ **Unite** the members from across the Commonwealth.

FCS State Staff

- ✓ **Inform** KEHA Educational Program Chairmen and board members regarding emerging issues and trends.
- ✓ **Author** lesson materials.
- ✓ **Deliver** workshops and trainings.
- ✓ **Partner** with agents, KEHA leaders, and outside agencies to support KEHA programming and activities.
- ✓ **Research** issues of interest to the members and provide research-based outreach materials.
- ✓ **Encourage** involvement in addressing current issues related to their expertise.

Written by: Laura Stephenson, Ph.D., Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program Leader; and Kim Henken, M.S., Assistant to the Director, School of Human Environmental Sciences.