

Organizational Meeting

This meeting is your opportunity to address as a group those individuals who have shown enough interest in FCL to attend. This will likely be the core around which the club will be built. Certain information is critical to pass along at this point. The following agenda is suggested to help assure coverage of this material.

1. FCL — History and Purpose

- Organization started in 1916, Sumter County (The South Carolina Council of Farm Women was organized at Winthrop College in June 1921.)
- Presently we have 46 clubs in 22 counties.
- Purpose is to make each community a better place in which to live and improve the quality of life for its members and their families.
- Works to create a better understanding among people of the community and strives to organize leadership to improve social and economic conditions.
- Cooperates with other organizations and institutions dedicated to the same purpose.

2. Organizational Structure

- All FCL clubs are affiliated with SCFCL and operate under a constitution suggested by the State organization. They are also members of a National Organization, National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON), Country Women's Council of the United States of America (CWC USA), which is a coordinating council for member societies in the US for the International Organization, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).
- SCFCL, county organizations and clubs in each county are supported by county Cooperative Extension Offices as part of the affiliation with Clemson University.
- Officers and Board are elected by each club to administer the affairs of that club.
- Clubs are assigned to Districts representing a specific geographic area.
- If there is only one Club in the County, the Club Officers are also the County Officers.
- County delegates elect State officers and board members to administer State affairs.
- State officers and directors set policies and provide support to clubs and districts.

3. Club Membership and Attendance

- Meetings of approximately two hours are held monthly and consist of three distinct parts.
 - Fellowship
 - Club business
 - Education program
- Attendance is not compulsory, but generally four absences without cause are considered to be a sign of lost interest. A personal contact with the absentee member is suggested. If dues are not paid for the current year, the name is removed from the club roll.

4. Finances

- Club dues are set by each club and vary.
- Clubs pay State dues at \$4.00 per member to County Treasurer in time for them to be received by State Treasurer by January 15 using current SCFCL Treasurer Form which can be acquired from SCFCL Website: <http://www.scfcl.com/member-forms>.

5. Organizational Decision

- Following a question and answer, entertain a motion that a FCL Club be formed.
- Given a favorable response, elect a president and secretary.
- Send a letter to the SCFCL President stating desire to join SCFCL with the following:
 - Complete and send a County Officer's Form. (May be acquired from SCFCL Website: <http://www.scfcl.com/member-forms> to the SCFCL President and SCFCL Webmaster.)
 - Ask each new member to complete a New Member Application. (May be acquired from SCFCL Website: <http://www.scfcl.com/member-forms>)
 - Send the New Member Application along with the state dues to the current SCFCL Treasurer.

6. Civil Rights Compliance

- Once the club is organized and given a name, officers are elected, and dues collected, the New President of the club should sign 3 copies of the State CR Compliance Form. (May be acquired from SCFCL Website: <http://www.scfcl.com/member-forms>)
- One copy of the form stays with the club, one is filed at the local Clemson Extension office and one copy is sent to Clemson University by the local Extension Secretary.