**STATE GOALS – 2024**

**FAMILY ISSUES**

**Slogan**: Educate families to promote individual character and community service for present and future generations.

**Objective**: To help families unite and improve home and community life.

**Oklahoma Family Fundamentals**

* Increasing family skills across all generations using research-based curricula.
* Helping to develop home life skills.
* Preparing to care for others with special needs and the elderly and to receive assistance when needed.
* Learn to utilize electronic communications such as Zoom so that individual members have a healthy and safe way to interact within our organization at the state, county, and/or local level.

**Developing Community Outreach**

* Discover how to increase involvement and assistance to community coalitions and create alliances with other community and county organizations.
* Small community service projects, plan neighborhood community social events.
* Volunteer to tutor or mentor community adults and children.

**Protecting Your Family**

* Engage in healthy conversation breaking bad communication habits. Raising awareness of mental health needs and resources.
* Family emergency planning and response training, implement Neighborhood Watch Program
* Internet ~~s~~afety education.

**Promoting Family Literacy**

* Volunteer to read to pre-school or young elementary age children. Check with county educator for available programs i.e. Raising Young Readers.
* Implement reading programs such as F.R.E.D. (Families/Fathers reading every day). Adopt a “book box” project for your area or underserved community in your county.

**Awards:**

1st, 2nd, 3rd - County Award Book:  $25, $15, $10

1st, 2nd, 3rd - Local Group Award Book:  $25, $15, $10

**Family Issues - Military Support**

* Continue to send packages, coupons, and letters to military personnel, encourage support of military families. Facilitate and/or assist support groups for veterans and active-duty service members. Contact and assist local military entities.

**Awards:**

1st, 2nd, 3rd - County Award Book:  $25, $15, $10

1st, 2nd, 3rd - Local Group Award Book:  $25, $15, $10

**Life Essay**

* Each county conducts a life essay contest according to the state guidelines as listed. County winners should be submitted to the state awards chair for judging.
* Write about ONE EVENT OR TIME IN LIFE, for the purpose of providing future generations a written picture of life. Spelling and punctuation are not judged, but clarity of ideas is important.
* The goal is to compile the best stories as deemed by the Family Issues committee members into a possible future publication as a fundraiser for OHCE.

**Rules of the Life Story Essay Contest**

* Two entries per county
* One entry per person
* Entry must be written by an OHCE member in good standing.
* Entries will only be judged if they are placed in a 3-brad paper folder with pockets for 8½ x 11 paper. The information is needed in the following order: Life story, name of the author, address, county, district, and year written on the upper right-hand corner of the label affixed on the folder.
* The essay must be on a typewriter or computer using Times New Roman font 12 size and double-spaced with a 1-inch left hand margin. It should be one to three pages in length.
* Do not include photographs, clipart, news clippings or page protectors.
* All life essays submitted for state judging must include the current signed Life Essay “Release Form” statement by the author giving OHCE the right to read publicly and publish electronically on OHCE website for public viewing without further financial compensation to the author.
* County winning essays must be submitted to the OHCE Awards Chair postmarked by February 1st.

**Awards:**

1st, 2nd, 3rd - Life Essay:  $25, $15, $10

**Committee:**

Rebekah Williams, SE Chairman

Elaine James, SE Member

Donna Jamison, NE Member

Karen Ratzloff, SE Member