



# FACS Quarterly

## *What Do Teachers Make?*

### Inside this issue:

*How Government Works* 2

*Kansas Senate* 3

*Kansas House of Representatives* 4-5

*Public Policy* 6

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life.

One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued: "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" He reminded the other dinner guests that it's true what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

To corroborate, he said to another guest: "You're a teacher, Susan," he said. "Be honest. What do you make?"

Susan, who had a reputation of honesty and frankness, replied, "You want to know what I make?"

"I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I can make a C+ feel like a Congressional Medal of Honor and an A- feel like a C+ slap in the face if the student did not do his or her very best. I can make kids sit through 40 minutes of study hall in absolute silence. I can make parents tremble in fear when I call home. You want to know what I make? I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them write. I make them read, read, read. I make them spell definitely beautiful, definitely beautiful, and definitely beautiful over and over and over again, until they will never misspell either one of those words again. I make

them show all their work in math and hide it all on their final drafts in English. I make them understand that if you have the brains, then follow your heart ... and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you pay them no attention."

"You want to know what I make? I make a difference. What about you?"

*Adapted from Author, Taylor Mali*



## *The President's Corner*

I hope everyone is as excited about spring coming as I am. It has been a very hard winter, but it is time to look forward to better days. The United Conference is set and many of the plans for the summer KACTE conference are almost finished.

Kearney and Associates have been power of attorney to solve all the business concerns of the Foundation and liability insurance has been secured for KATFACS. Steve Kearney praised KATFACS for leading the way for the other affiliates at our last KACTE

board meeting. I am proud of our Executive board members for all the work to make our organization the best it can be.

See you all in August 5-8 in Topeka.

*Deb Hargrove  
KATFACS President 06-07*

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## How Government Works

The US Government was structured in order to preserve a balance of power between the three respective branches of government. The three branches are known as the legislative, judicial and executive. Our forefathers, concerned that one branch of government would become too powerful created a system of separated powers and checks and balances to help stabilize the federal government.

### **Legislative Branch**

The legislative branch includes Congress and government agencies. Congress makes laws and has two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Congress is charged with the responsibility of creating making laws by writing what is known as a "bill." If a bill is passed, it becomes a law if the President (Executive Branch) approves them.

Other powers delegated to Congress include, the power to declare war and control inter-state trade.

### ***Senate***

Two Senators are elected from every state in order to achieve equal representation among the states in the Senate. Each Senator is elected for a six-year term and no term limits are placed on a Senator's seat.

The Senate is responsible for approving treaties, confirming presidential nominations, and conducting trials.

### ***House of Representatives***

There are four hundred and thirty five representatives in the House. The numbers vary greatly from state to state since representation corresponds to population. Each representative represents what is known as a congressional district. The amount of representatives a state has is based on the amount of congressional districts within that state. Bigger states have more representatives and smaller ones have less. Each representative serves for a two-year term.

### **Executive Branch**

The executive branch includes the President, Vice President, Departments, and Independent Agencies. This branch is responsible for the enforcement of laws enacted by Congress.

### ***President***

The President is the head of the executive branch. The powers of the President are designated by Article II of the Constitution. Some of the President's powers include: Commander-in-Chief, making treaties (with the approval of Congress), declaring war (with the approval of Congress), signing bills into law, suggesting bills, appointing judges, heads of departments, and other officials (with the approval of Congress), and pardoning. The President serves a four-year term, with a two-term maximum.

The President plays a crucial role in the law making process. He has the power to sign a bill into law. Once both the House of Representatives and Senate pass a bill, then that bill is presented to the President. If the President agrees with the bill, it is signed into law. If the President does not agree with it, then it can be vetoed.

### **Judicial Branch**

Article III of the Constitution established the judicial branch of government and the creation of the Supreme Court. The duties of the Supreme Court include the power of judicial review. This means they interpret laws, decide the constitutionality of laws, and determine how laws should be applied.

### ***Supreme Court***

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. Its main function is to decide the constitutionality of laws. This is part of our system of checks and balances. In order to make sure that Congress and the President are acting within the terms of the Constitution, the court has the power to review the law. If the law is unconstitutional, it can be stricken.

The Supreme Court also has the power to overturn laws and decisions made by lower courts. If a lower court has decided a case that is not considered principled, constitutional, or justifiable for a variety of reasons that law may be overturned.

There are nine members of this court and each is appointed for life. The Justices hold their positions until they resign, retire or are impeached.

Link to the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the National Archives and Records Administration to learn more about the United States Government.

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<a href="#">Patton, Joe</a>	54	Republican	<a href="mailto:patton@house.state.ks.us">patton@house.state.ks.us</a>	<a href="#">Whitham, Jeff</a>	123	Republican	<a href="mailto:whitham@house.state.ks.us">whitham@house.state.ks.us</a>
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<a href="#">Peck, Virgil</a>	11	Republican	<a href="mailto:peck@house.state.ks.us">peck@house.state.ks.us</a>	<a href="#">Williams, Jerry</a>	8	Democrat	<a href="mailto:williamsj@house.state.ks.us">williamsj@house.state.ks.us</a>
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<a href="#">Sawyer, Tom</a>	95	Democrat	<a href="mailto:sawyer@house.state.ks.us">sawyer@house.state.ks.us</a>				
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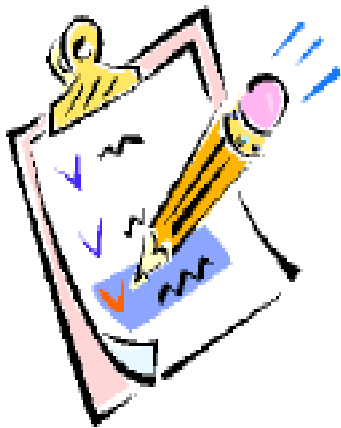
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Get the FACS before leaving school!



*Make note on your calendar,  
Day at the Capitol is held  
the Monday of  
Career & Technical  
Education Week each year*

## *Public Policy*



Public policy is the determination of “who gets what” in public service and, more importantly, “why” and “what difference it makes.” It gives you the opportunity to influence whatever you choose to impact. When getting involved in public policy, there are several important questions to ask.

- What is the issue important?
- What is in it for me?
- What role can I and/or my students play?
- How do I start?

When thinking about what issues are important, consider the issues you care about most. What gets topic, if brought up in conversation, really gets

your heart pumping? What topics make you “get up on your soap box” about?

When considering what is in it for you, think about the issue and what kind of impact it will make on the public if it is addressed.

There are many roles you and/or your students can play—spokesperson, researcher, etc.

Consider developing a policy briefing to make your case. First, list a policy state identifying the name of the issue, describe the issue or societal concern, and define its impact to society in measurable terms. Secondly, state background information on the issue. List who the leading voices of con-

cern are. Third, identify possible solutions. What is currently being done? What more needs to be done? Who needs to do it? Be sure to include a notes section. Support your perspective with evidence. Site sources, students, research, etc. Create a persuasive presentation using a variety of visual aides. Finally, attend your state legislative day and present your case. Make sure, no matter what happens with your issue, to send a thank you note to your legislator to keep up good relations for future visits.

On a final note, remember to keep up regular contact with your legislators so they know who you are and what of issues you represent.