



**Janice Turpen**  
**Kentucky Arts Council Board**  
**Somerset**

Janice Cassady Turpen, originally from Bowling Green, served as a public school teacher for 27 years in the Pulaski County and Somerset Independent Schools systems. She is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and obtained a Master of Arts in Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Her primary teaching focus was gifted and talented education. Janice worked on the state level with other educators of gifted and talented students, and started the first local Kentucky Association of Gifted Education (KAGE) made up of teachers, administrators and parents in the Somerset area. Her mentor in gifted education was Julia Roberts, executive director of gifted studies at The Gatton Academy at Western Kentucky University. Turpen has earned Outstanding Educator and Teacher of the Year honors in the Somerset-Pulaski County districts.

Her community service includes serving as president of the Cornelia Dozier Cooper Endowment for the Arts, and as chair of the annual Nutcracker Ball to benefit the arts in her hometown and surrounding counties. She also has served on the Lake Cumberland Performing Arts board of directors. Turpen is a member of the Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, and a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Somerset. She has served on the March of Dimes board and volunteered for many community service fundraisers in the Somerset-Pulaski County area.

Turpen and her husband, Bill, are owners of Turpen Builders Inc. and Turpen Rentals Inc. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Turpen enjoys traveling, biking and spending time with her grandchildren.