Dear FCE Friends,

I vividly remember my first trip to the beach, the sound of the surf and the vast expanse of water enthralled me. I recently enjoyed that amazing connection again, an annual tradition I am blessed to sojourn. It’s important in our busy lives to make connections to happy times, making new connections while retracting the past ones, building new memories that make the ties to tradition stronger. I love the beach and always will, soothed by the rhythm of the waves, grateful for the connections that make the journey special.

The connections we make in our lives help shape us and make us who we are. Our connections through FCE help motivate us, improve us, and keep us strong as we build on tradition and make new ones.

This newsletter is one means of connecting, of communicating our FCE achievements and events. Our Annual Mini-Conference is another way to connect. We are re-inventing this tradition this year; more details about M-C are in this newsletter, and the registration form can be found on our website (yet another means of connecting!). Please plan to attend mini-conference, to reconnect with old friends, and interact to make new ones.

Our connections through FCE, frantic though they may be when we are busy and the seas are rough, on calm days can be like the soothing sound of the surf—rhythmic, captivating, and a steady churning of ideas to improve ourselves and the world around us, shaping new memories and connecting to traditions—old, new, or re-invented.

Stay connected!

Emma
Emma S. Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

"The ocean stirs the heart, inspires the imagination and brings eternal joy to the soul." —Robert Wyland

"The song of the sea sings to the soul." —Unknown

DATES
Aug 1  Mini-Conference, Waverly
Nov 5-8  TAFCE Conference, Knoxville

"Life is like the ocean. It can be calm or still, and rough or rigid, but in the end, it is always beautiful." —unknown

REPORTS

TAFCE-Conference

Congratulations to the following members who won at the 2016 state conference:

FASHION REVUE
1 Suit/Dressy/Better Dress
1st Brenda Gray, Obion
2nd Nancy Tankersley, Obion
3rd Betty Quarles, Chester

2 Jacket/Blazer/Coat
1st Charlotte Pierce, Obion

3 Casual/Active Wear
1st Brenda Gray, Obion
2nd Charlotte Pierce, Obion

4 Child Casual/Better Wear
1st JoAnne Gill, Weakley
2nd Julia Alley, Lauderdale
3rd Betty Quarles, Chester

6 Sewing for Adult
1st Charlotte Pierce, Obion
2nd Betty Quarles, Chester

7 Recycled Garment
1st Esther Button, Houston

8 Wardrobe Accessory
1st Charlotte Pierce, Obion
2nd Martha Espey, Gibson
3rd Anna Johnston, Lauderdale

9 Decorative Sweatwear
1st Alice Fennel, Obion
2nd Lupita Berner, Obion
10 Best Fashion Purchase Casual Wear
1st Susyn Dragness, Hardin
2nd Rochelle McClain, Obion
3rd Betty Ray, Lauderdale

11 Best Fashion Purchase Better Dress
1st Alice Fennel, Obion
2nd Yoruba Brewer, Obion
3rd Julia Alley, Lauderdale

Leadership-In-Action
“FCE—Reaching Out, Staying Connected” was the theme for Western Region’s Leadership-In-Action which was held on January 10th at the Madison County Extension Office, Jackson. Evaluations showed this to be a very successful day.

Mini-Conference
Because of continuing renovations at the UT Research Center, the region board has decided to hold our Annual Mini-Conference on August 1st at a new venue—the United Methodist Church, Waverly, TN. The $15 registration fee, required from all attendees, includes lunch provided by Uncle Bud’s Catfish, Chicken and Such, cooked fresh on-site.

Communication is our focus for the year, with our theme for M-C being “FCE—Reaching Out, Linking Up.” Gwen Joyner, UT Extension Agent from Carroll County, will provide the morning program entitled “You Talking to Me?”, a communication presentation.

The registration form is on our region website. Plan to attend, and send in your registration by the due date!

~ Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but is ever a part of the heaving surface of the ocean, so must I never live my life for itself, but always in the experience which is going on around me. —Albert Schweitzer

TAFCE-WR BOARD NEWS

Vice President for Programs, Pamela Carroll
The offices of President-Elect, Vice President for Programs, and Secretary will be elected at mini-conference. Send nomination forms to me by June 30th. Creative Writing winning entries are due to me by July 1st. My address is Pamela Carroll, 114 GB Plunk Road, Adamsville, TN 38310.

Vice President for Public Policy, Linda Capra
CVU hours should be reported to me by June 1st. My address is Linda Capra, 1730 Beechwood Street, South Fulton, TN 38257. Please remember to report them in 500 hour increments only, saving less than 500 or those hours more than 500 for the following year.

Treasurer, Sheryl Butcher
Send membership dues and information for any new member to me as soon as the new member joins. My address is Sheryl Butcher, 623 Stonewall Lane, Clarksville, TN 37040.

Education Chairs, Esther Button, Mary Koebler, Pamela Albaro, Brenda Gray
Lila Pollock and Barbara Isbell resigned from the TAFCE—WR Board due to family health problems. We welcome our new chairs for Fashion Revue, Pamela Albaro, Montgomery County, and Brenda Gray, Obion County.

Check the region website for the current Cultural Arts and Fashion Revue lists and forms. Fashion Revue entry forms should be sent to Pamela Albaro, 253 Raintree, Clarksville, TN 37042. The form
for Cultural Arts winners should be sent to Esther Button, 150 Outlaw Ln, Stewart, TN 37175. Both are due by July 1st.

**County Cultural Arts chairs should make sure the correct tags** (the one from the county competition and the one mailed from the regional chair) **are securely attached to Cultural Arts items PRIOR to getting in the registration line at mini-conference.**

**Conference Coordinator, Ann Luther** The theme contest for the 2018 TAFCE Conference will be held at this year’s mini-conference.

**THEME BOARD**

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1-Should be on a tri-fold board, and set up at the 2017 WR Mini-Conference by 9:15 AM by the county presenting the theme
2-Should have a main theme for the conference
3-Should have names suggested for the:
   - Hospitality room
   - Gift Shop
   - Cultural Arts room
4-Should have ideas for:
   - Favors for Tuesday night banquet
   - Favors/gifts for Alumni luncheon
   - Favors/gifts for TAFCE Board members and UT Advisors to the Board
   - Favors/gifts for all FCE members in attendance (past examples include FCE throw, padded folio, umbrella, backscratcher, FCE bag, shoe bag)
5-Should have samples of any decorations, gifts and favors, or a picture, with price and place of purchase, if possible

Tables for the contest will be set up at mini-conference. Accessories for your county display may be brought to elaborate on your theme, with space limited to the area in front of your county tri-fold board.

Each member in attendance will be given one vote for the board of their choice. Vote totals will be disclosed in the afternoon session. The top three boards will be presented to the TAFCE Board at their August meeting for final selection.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 615-799-5356 or via email at annluth03@comcast.net. Please let me know by July 28th if your county will be participating in this contest.

“*The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.*” —Psalm 93:4

**COUNTY NEWS**

Dickson County FCE members have been very busy in the last few months. 385 valentines were presented to veterans at the VA Hospital in Nashville. Thirty pounds of can tabs were presented to the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville. Eighty-five bears were made for hospice patients and presented to a local hospice representative. Almost twenty discovery aprons have been made for Alzheimer’s patients. Dickson County FCE sponsored the local “Character Counts” essay and artwork contest for 4th graders in the county; entries were collected, judged, and the winner sent on to the state contest. Volunteers continue to help younger members with monthly sewing workshops. Creative FCE Club made a $250 donation to the Imagination Library. A membership tea is scheduled in April to attract new members, and a workshop to make pillowcase dresses for the needy is also in the works.

—Alice Poole
Dickson County FCE members Janie Jones, Sunnye McKeel, Helen Edlin and Brenda Petty present hospice bears to Avalon Hospice representative April Tummins (center).

Humphreys County
“You Are the Magic in FCE” was the theme for our Recognition Achievement Day on March 7th. Magician Doug Emerson was the guest performer. This luncheon honored those special members whose magic made 2016 a successful year for Humphreys County FCE. Attendees donated cans of “magic beans” for the local food pantry.

Buffalo FCE Club will host our Spring FCE Day on May 9th at the Waverly United Methodist Church. This event is open to the public; call Emma at 931-209-0256 for more information.

Humphreys County FCE donates two $500 scholarships to high school seniors each year. These will be awarded to a senior at Waverly Central High School and at McEwen High School at awards day in May.

—Emma Shupe

Lawrence County
Once again this May, Lawrence County FCE Clubs will be offering the “CarFit” program to county senior citizens and anyone who may be interested in improving their personal driving safety. The event will be held in Rotary Park at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Signs will direct participants to the pavilion. The exact date will be announced once the event is coordinated with the Governor’s Safety Office.

CarFit was developed by AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association. This program is designed to help older drivers find out how well they currently fit their personal vehicles, to highlight actions they can take to improve their fit, and to promote conversations about driver safety and community mobility.

Participants will learn how to adjust mirrors in order to minimize blind spots, how to position your seat to reduce the risk of injury in case of a rear-end collision, and how to sit comfortably in order to eliminate fatigue on long trips.

Representatives from the TN Department of Safety, Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis and Lawrenceburg will guide drivers through a simple checklist, and Occupational Therapy students from Belmont University and the University of Memphis will show participants how to make car adjustments and adaptations for safer, more comfortable driving.

Lt. Tina Faulkner, TN Highway Patrol, and Rose Boyd, Governor’s Highway Safety Office, are in charge of the event.

—Laura Rummans

Pictured: THP Lt. Cary Hopkins, Driver Don Wisenheimer, and THP Lt. Christina Faulkner
Lawrence County FCE celebrated National Pie Day, January 23rd, with their 8th annual event. Thirty-nine pies were judged by five judges to determine the 2017 Pie Champion. The winning entry was Jane Gallupi’s Carrot Cake Tart, with Janette McCord’s Chicken Pot Pie winning the savory categories.

—Patricia Long

Pictured at Lawrence County National Pie Day are (front) Peggy Tingle, Jane Gallupi, Barbara Crews, Daniel Koszut, Shelia Voss, Melinda Risner, (back) Eric Koszut, Betsy Koszut, Janette Mc Cord and Nina Larson.

McNairy County
Sharing Hearts has started off the year with a BANG! We started with our kick-off meeting in January, setting our Membership, Activities and Community Action Goals, and boy, did we set them.

In February, members attended the banquet for the Special Needs Achievement Awards. We had the privilege of providing the dessert for the evening, and seeing the achievements that these young people have made.

The club held its annual Community Yard Sale on March 2-3 at the Enville Community Center. The community was very supportive of us with their donations for the sale and in returning to purchase. We raised over $800 to put back in to our community projects. When the sale was over, we boxed up everything left and donated it to Appalachian Mountain Ministries. We achieved a Community Action and an Activity at one event.

We are looking forward to sharing with you throughout the year.

—Patricia Davison


Weakley County
The annual FCE Weakley County Awards Luncheon was held at the First Baptist Church in Dresden on March 14th. The theme was “Grow with FCE.” Agent Beverly Shelby conducted the installation of the 2017 Council Officers with links of chains to show the growing link of FCE into the community. Cultural Arts and Fashion Revue were held, as well as members recognized for various awards and activities accomplished in 2016. A total of 11,075 volunteer hours were reported (at $23.07 as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) as $255,500.25 value of volunteer work in 2016. Proverbs 27:2 “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.” It is my joy to serve as an agent advisor for this wonderful organization, and with my mouth, let me praise your good deeds!

—Beverly Shelby
Pictured L to R: Brenda Winstead, Treasurer; JoAnne Gill, Secretary; Glenda Jackson (standing in for Jerry Seamans), 2nd Vice President; Linda Capra, 1st Vice President; Betty Bequette, President; Mary Elizabeth Bell, Past President Advisor; and Beverly Shelby, FCS Extension Agent

Your County should be here!
The County Council President or appointed county person should send information to be included in the July issue to Emma by June 16th.

Reach Out—Stay Connected!
Reach Out—Link Up!
Communicate!

FCE is a partnership with the University of Tennessee Extension. The mission of FCE is to strengthen individuals, families and communities through education, leadership development and community service. Membership is open to all interested persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.