Dear FCE Friends,

Our 2018 region focus is on Leadership. Leadership is about stepping up.

Step up:
—to be the needed leader in your club, county, region and state;
— to be the leader your community needs, in whatever organization you hold membership in;
— to pay back for the leadership skills you learned at FCL training;
— to lead in FCE!

Thank you for the steps you have taken as leaders in FCE. Now we need qualified leaders to step up to be our next President, Vice President for Public Policy, and Treasurer. We thank Barbara Beeman for stepping up to serve as President-Elect.

Step up to BEE the leader FCE needs,
Emma
Emma S. Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

“The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps—we must step up the stairs.” —Vance Havner

DATES
July 19-22 NAFCE Conference, Austin, TX
July 31 Mini-Conference, Henry County Fairgrounds
Nov. 11-14 2018 TAFCE Conference, Memphis Hilton

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.” —Chauncey Depew

REPORTS
TAFCE Board Report—Emma Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

The TAFCE Board will meet on April 23-24. If you have an issue to bring before the board, please send it to me in writing prior to that date so I can present it to the board.

Leadership-In-Action
L-I-A was held at the Gibson County Extension Office, Trenton, on January 9th. Dickson County FCS Agent Janet Cluck gave a presentation on Parliamentary Procedure. Tying this year’s Leadership focus to last year’s Communication focus, county leaders shared ways their counties lead in communication. Evaluations were very positive, showing it to be an enjoyable, educational day for the 100 attending.

Mini-Conference
TAFCE-Western Region’s Annual Mini-Conference will be held at the Henry County Fairgrounds, Paris, TN, on July 31st. Lunch will be catered by Miss D’s. Registration information can be found on the region webpage.
"Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation." —Brian Tracy

TAFCE-WR BOARD NEWS

Vice President for Programs, Cynthia Summers

I’m glad to once again be serving FCE as VP Programs. My door is always open, and by phone (731-225-0010) always on, if I can ever help you.

Tommy Howington (Gibson Co. 731-414-9491), Debby Johnson (Montgomery Co. 931-801-7313), and I are serving on the Nominating Committee which is seeking nominations for the offices of President, Vice President for Public Policy, and Treasurer, to serve for the 2019-2020 term. Forms are due to me by June 30th. Borrowing our theme from L-I-A, “Don’t Wait for a Leader—Be the Leader!”

If your county’s State Project Reports Summary has not been turned in, please do so immediately! They were due by mid-February to TAFCE VP Programs Pamela Sites, 406 Regal Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 peanut1450@bellsouth.net 615-898-8274, mobile 615-956-5986. She will still accept the summary. Better late than never!

I hope you have been busy with your Cultural Arts, Creative Writing, and Fashion Revue entries for your county competitions. We are absolutely amazing women, and we are fortunate to have a place to showcase our talents and abilities!

Each county should submit its 1st & 2nd place winning entries in Creative Writing to me by July 1st. Please follow the correct format as per the guidelines, and MAIL HARD COPIES ONLY. Please make sure the guidelines are followed so that no entry is disqualified!

On behalf of Henry County FCE, I want to pass along a big welcome to Paris on July 31st for Mini-Conference! We all have lots of work to do before our day of fun. See you in Paris!

Vice President for Public Policy, Linda Capra

The Best-of-the-Best county nomination is due to me by July 1st.

FCL applications are due to me by July 14th. Please note that the April FCL class has been filled, and there is a waiting list for August.

Treasurer, Sheryl Butcher

Please send dues, along with member info, to me through the year as soon as any new member joins. The form for any new National member must be the original 2018 signed form, not a form with a copied signature.

Conference Coordinator, Ann Luther

Once again, let me commend our TAFCE Conference Co-Chairs—they are “Busy Bees” working to make your state conference, November 11-14, 2018, in Memphis, great! In fact, they are so good, we did not have to have a planning meeting in March or May. Co-Chairs, only, will meet in September to make sure we have our “bees” in order.

Decorations are to be beehive like; favors and gifts are related to bees and/or honey; the Gift Shop is named “The Beehive,” and will have lots and lots of surprises for you; goody bag items are being promised, and these items may be brought to Mini-Conference, and/or to the September Co-Chair meeting; the Hospitality Room, named “The Honey Pot,” will follow the bee theme with yellow waitress aprons; volunteers are “flying” in for the hostess committee; and tours, entertainment, learning sessions, and walk-in craft classes are being finalized.
For you service project, bring filled “Jazzy Jars,” with proceeds benefitting Serenity House Women’s Shelter in Clarksville.

A new committee is Games and Recreation, which promises to be fun for all. This is more than Bingo!

Volunteers are still welcome on any committee. We need workers in the Hospitality Room, hostesses in classrooms and hallways, and workers in the Gift Shop. Please call me at 615-799-5356, or email me at annluth03@comcast.net to volunteer.

**Education Chairs—Cultural Arts, Mary Koebler, Darlene Kobylas**

Our region is trying out a new category this year, **Digitally Enhanced Photography**. Please note that any entries in this category **will not** advance to the TAFCE competition.

Please send your county list of 1st and 2nd place winners in Cultural Arts to Mary Koebler as soon as possible after your county’s competition. Please use the correct form for submitting the correct information. This can be found on our region webpage.

After the list is received, the person who mailed it will receive a regional entry claim ticket for each item. **THIS TICKET, ALONG WITH THE COUNTY INFO TICKET, MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE ITEM PRIOR TO REGISTRATION AT MINI-CONFERENCE. Do not get in the registration line unless the appropriate tickets are securely attached to items!**

**Education Chairs—Fashion Revue, Pamela Albaro, Brenda Gray**

Please send your county info for 1st and 2nd place winners in Fashion Revue to Pamela Albaro as soon as possible after your county’s competition. Please use the correct submittal forms which can be found on our region webpage.

“**One may walk the highest mountain one step at a time.**” —Barbara Walters

**COUNTY NEWS**

**Henry County**

Henry County Town & Country FCE Club enjoyed an individually created and low carb “Omelet-in-a-Bag” brunch at their March meeting. Accompanying the omelets were hot, buttery garlic cheese biscuits, blueberry muffins, various compotes, and a fresh ginger-fruit salad. A lovely and inspiring Devotional poem, entitled “Spring’s Fashion Revue” (written by WR President/2017 TAFCE Creative Writing 1st place poetry winner Emma Shupe) was read by hostess Cynthia Summers. Enumerated was God’s use of His color palette to paint and spread beauty to Earth’s wardrobe. Vases of freshly “painted” spring flowers complemented the venue. An interesting and appropriately titled program, “Double Agents—New Uses for Everyday Things,” was presented by County Director/FCS Agent Michele Atkins. All agreed that zip-lock bags qualified as “double agents” for a fun new way to prepare breakfast. —Cynthia Summers
**Houston County**
Houston County FCE held its recognition luncheon on March 27th at Erin City Hall. Several special guests, including our speakers, judges, and entertainers, shared the day with us.

Stephen Graybill, EMS Director, told about the “The Yellow Dot” program—placing the yellow dot on your back window of your vehicle lets EMS workers know to look in your glove compartment for medical info for you or those who frequently ride with you. Kaitlyn Haley, from the regional library, spoke on the e-book program which is available at local libraries. In the afternoon, “All Strung Out” played dulcimers for the group.

The Cultural Arts Exhibit was held, with Cynthia Summers, Henry County, and June Ross, Humphreys County, judging. CVU, 100% attendance, and reading certificates were awarded. FCS Agent Sheila Settles mentioned that Extension Month is celebrated during March. Mike Davis filmed our program to be on our local cable TV station. —Sheila Settles

**Humphreys County**
Humphreys County FCE held its annual Recognition Achievement Luncheon on March 15th at the Blue Creek Ag Building in Waverly. The theme was “FCE is Lucky to have You,” with decorations of Irish green. For lunch, we enjoyed loaded baked potatoes, and spinach salad with cranberries and sliced almonds, followed by dessert of sour cream pound cake with sliced fruit.

Debbie Schmidt, our Irish friend from the north (Houston County), entertained us in song with her beautiful voice. FCS Agent Denise Schaeffer, accompanied by “Be More” Specialist Kathie McClanahan, gave a presentation on “Go Green,” including ideas on repurposing/upcycling. It was a fun day, rewarding those with special recognitions and achievements in FCE in 2017.

Friendship FCE Club met in March at the home of Patricia Hudson, where “Be More” Specialist Kathie McClanahan and FCS Agent Denise Schaeffer presented a program on herbs and spices, with members mixing spice/herb combinations as take home treats to use in cooking.
McNairy County

Members of Sharing Hearts FCE Club have started 2018 off with a bang! We have set some pretty high goals for ourselves, but as always, I have no doubt that we will accomplish them. In fact, as you can see from the picture that follows, we have already started. These are just a few of the activity pads for Alzheimer’s patients that we will be donating to a local nursing home. They are both pretty to look at and functional.

Pictured above are Frances Willis and Barbara Isbell with activity pads for Alzheimer’s patients.

We have already had our yearly yard sale, and donated the items not sold to Appalachian Mountain Ministry. Our annual potluck dinner is just around the corner. These are our two main fundraisers for the year. We like to start off with them so we have an idea of our funds for our projects.

Keep an eye out in the next newsletter to see what all we are accomplishing while helping out our community.

—Patricia Davison

This photo is of an article from the newspaper, showing Stantonville FCE Club, which met on March 7th. The program on “Backyard Wildlife” was presented by UT Extension Director Ricky Mathenia. The monthly project was donating bingo prizes to Ms. Patricia Simmons, Activity Director of the McNairy County HealthCare & Rehab Center.

Shelby County

Sandra Mayfield is pictured above on 1-31-18, opening birthday cards. She was thrilled with the many birthday wishes from FCE Friends from a card signed at L-I-A, and she sends her thanks and love. We appreciate the 38 years of service Sandra has given to Shelby County FCE!

—Cathy Faust
“I truly believe that it’s all of the hard times that make you step up to the next level, and that’s what makes you a champion.”
—Caroline Buchanan

“Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation.”
—Brian Tracy

“Aim for the sky, but move slowly, enjoying every step along the way. It is all those little steps that make the journey complete.”
—Chanda Kochlar

“Do the difficult things while they are easy, and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.”
—Lao Tzu

“Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tip toe if you must, but take the step.”
—Lao Tzu

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Stepping up: it’s a simple concept. It basically means to rise above yourself; to do a little more, to show you something special.”
—Nathan Scott

“Step up to the challenge, believe in yourself, and do what it takes. Right now is a great time to start.”
—unknown

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FCE is in partnership with the University of Tennessee Extension. Membership is open to all interested persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.