Dear FCE Friends,

2017: a new year for new adventures, a new year to reach out and stay connected! I hope this will be a fun and rewarding year for you in FCE.

As usual, we begin our FCE year with our Leadership-In-Action, January 10th (snow-date Jan. 17th) at the Madison County Extension Office. Please find the registration form attached to the October newsletter and on our region website (accessed through UT Western Region Extension, click on Family/Family and Community Education).

There is an information sheet attached to the October newsletter and to this newsletter that L-I-A attendees should fill out and bring with them. This info will be used during a share-time activity in keeping with our theme, “Reaching Out, Staying Connected.” Please bring at least one copy of your county yearbook to share in small group. Our plan is to share activities and information across county lines, so please come prepared.

I hope 2017 will be a wonderful year for you and yours, and for FCE!

Happy New Year!

Emma
Emma S. Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

“ Invisible threads are the strongest ties.”
—Friedrich Nietzsche

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone— we find it with another.”
—Thomas Merton

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DATES
Jan 10  Leadership-In-Action, Madison Co. Ext. Office, snow-date Jan 17
Aug 1  tentative Mini-Conference, place to be determined
Nov 5-8  TAFCE Conference, Knoxville

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.”
—Herman Melville

REPORTS

TAFCE-Conference
Western Region would like to thank Central Region for hosting an excellent state conference in 2016.

Congratulations to the following members who won at TAFCE Conference:

CREATIVE WRITING
Poetry
1st Debbie Schmidt, Houston

Essay
1st Janie Jones, Dickson

Short Story
2nd Pat Smith, Montgomery

Children’s Story
2nd Sandy Tolar, Obion

Feature Article/News Article
3rd JoAnne Gill, Weakley

Miscellaneous
1st Aileen Edwards, Weakley

CULTURAL ARTS

Ceramics
1st Nita Simpson, Obion

Crochet
1st Candace Woods, Humphreys
2nd Jane Stansbury, Lawrence
Leadership-In-Action

“FCE—Reaching Out, Staying Connected” will be the theme for TAFCE-Western Region’s Leadership-In-Action. L-I-A will be held on January 10th, snow-date January 17th, at the Madison County Extension Office, Jackson.

Following up on our VOLUNTEER focus for 2016, each county is asked to bring a tri-fold display board showing a collage of members in CVU action: CVUing!

Our regional focus for 2017 is COMMUNICATION. In keeping with this focus, there is an information sheet for our Share-Time activity attached to this newsletter (also attached to the October newsletter). Please look it over and jot down pertinent info so you can come to L-I-A prepared to share information from your county. Bring a copy of your county yearbook to share in small group.

The registration form is on the website. Registration and the $10 required fee, which includes lunch, is due to Treasurer Sheryl Butcher by January 3rd.

The following card was received from Line & Design Camp scholarship winner Lauren Lewis:

“When we know ourselves to be connected to all others, acting compassionately is simply the natural thing to do.” —Rachel Naomi Remen
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. Please send nomination forms to me by June 30th. 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
Please 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, Lila Pollock, Barbara Isbell
Please check the region website for the current Cultural Arts and Fashion Revue lists and forms.

“The most important things in life are the connections you make with others.” —Tom Ford

COUNTY NEWS

Gibson County
On November 12, Gibson County FCE held a Fall Festival, a vendor event featuring 23 vendors. Direct Sales Consultants for Avon, Beauty Control, doTERRA Essential Oils, Pampered Chef, Tupperware and Usborne Books were represented. Local crafters displayed jewelry, sewn and knitted pieces, wood work, and miscellaneous gift and décor items. Vendors with clothing, baked goods and collectibles rounded out the event. 4-H Club members were on hand selling breakfast and snack foods throughout the day.

Club members enjoyed organizing, recruiting vendors, publicizing, setting up, selling and mingling during the Festival. Funds raised from this event will help support local projects like 4-H, Imagination Library, the Carl Perkins Center, Birth Choice and more.

—Jan Burks

Humphreys County
As our yearly International Project, Friendship FCE members donated items for shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Club member Linda Miles is pictured below, alongside Waverly First Baptist Church Shoebox Project Coordinator Amy Roberts.
McNairy County
Sharing Heart FCE was very busy this year. We went on a mystery trip to Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, and went out to lunch, celebrating a member’s birthday. We have had several fun work days, from making snowmen centerpieces for our Christmas Luncheon, snowmen ornaments, putting together Christmas Shoe Boxes, and donating chemo caps to Dr. GiGi Davis for the Darryl Worley Cancer Center. The residents of one of the local nursing homes enjoyed having us there to play Bingo. We had the privilege of serving snacks to the Special Needs Athletics Baseball Teams after their games. Sharing Hearts ladies were very involved in the local Craft Mart. McNairy County FCE Clubs sold beverages, hot soups and baked goods to raise money for the county. Lila Pollock is mentoring Kris Wordsham as part of her high school senior project. We are looking forward to the New Year with new goals, and send wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our FCE family to yours.

—Patricia Davison

Pictured at McNairy County Craft Mart are President Barbara Isbell and Vice President Lila Pollock with Kris Wordsham who Lila is mentoring.

Weakley County
FCE members Elsie Smith, Sylvia Simmons, Mary Elizabeth Bell, Brenda Winstead, Betty Bequette and Jerry Seamans met in October to make beaded cross Christmas ornaments as part of the annual Weakley County Council Christmas Project.

In December, the members take the ornaments to share with the residents of Hillview Nursing Home in Dresden, and sing Christmas carols and spread a little Christmas cheer.

“We often forget our human connectedness. Throughout my life, I have felt the greatest beauty lies in this connection. It has been in the deepest connections with others that I have experienced the greatest degree of learning, healing and transformation. This connection is a powerful thing, with the ability to transform lives, and ultimately transform human experience.”

—Kristi Bowman

“A tribe is a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, and connected to an idea. For millions of years, human beings have been part of one tribe or another. A group needs only two things to be a tribe: a shared interest and a way to communicate.”

—Seth Godin

“All knowledge is connected to all other knowledge. The fun is making the connections.”

—Arthur Aufderheide

“This year I will cultivate the art of making connections and recognize how I can contribute to the happiness of others.”

—Unknown
COMMUNICATION
2017 TAFCE-WR FOCUS

Tennessee Association for Family and Community Education-Western Region’s focus for 2017 is COMMUNICATION. We want to stress the importance of sharing information, both to our membership and outside our membership, to help keep our organization strong, exciting and growing. Communication within our clubs and our county, region, state and national organizations is vital to keep our membership informed, engaged and enthusiastic.

Our regional newsletter is one means of communication. This newsletter can be found at the beginning of each quarter (January, April, July and October) on another means of communication, our regional website which can be accessed through Western Region UT Extension (click on Family).

Our regional, state and national meetings also serve as means of communication. Leadership-In-Action will be held on January 10, 2017 (snow-date January 17) at the Madison County Extension Office. Please look over the SHARE-TIME IDEAS that follow and list responses below, on the back, or on a separate sheet, and bring your responses to L-I-A to share in small group. Please communicate the SHARE-TIME IDEAS sheet with other county members who plan to attend L-I-A so they can come prepared to share.

SHARE-TIME IDEAS:

1. PLEASE LIST IDEAS, PROGRAMS, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC. THAT WORK WELL IN YOUR COUNTY:

2. PLEASE LIST MEETING THEMES, DECORATING IDEAS, FOOD THEMES, ETC. THAT HAVE BEEN USED SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR COUNTY:

3. PLEASE LIST VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS, ETC. THAT WORK IN YOUR COUNTY:

4. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE COPY OF YOUR COUNTY YEARBOOK TO SHARE, ALONG WITH BROCHURES, NEWSLETTERS, ETC.

“Communication is key: it’s the most important thing in life. It gets us to a more educated, thoughtful place, because we often come to things from different directions—although we want to get to the same space and have the same goal and vision, but that conversation is what gets us there.” —Mary-Kate Olsen

“Communication is what makes a team strong.” —Brian McClennan