Dear FCE Friends,

Who knew Facebook would be such fun? For years, I have resisted joining because I felt I had too many irons in the fire, so to speak. I finally yielded this past summer since my county members wanted a page, and my husband says I haven’t been off Facebook since. Funny, I just heard on the news tonight that it’s addictive. Well, now they tell me!

Seriously though, I have thoroughly enjoyed making connections with friends I haven’t heard from in years, and reconnecting with family members I haven’t seen in a while. I love sharing my special pictures and viewing those from friends, learning what’s going on in other people’s worlds, and sharing meaningful images and videos. It’s a simple and fun way to communicate.

In fact, it’s so much fun that I have instigated the creation of a Facebook page for Western Region. Over the last few weeks, I have enjoyed posts from friends with pictures from various FCE projects. I have shared some from the region, including our amazing bees at TAFCE Conference, and from my own club. I thought having our own regional page would be a great place to share those pictures and projects, and let others see all the fun we have.

So, as we wrap up our year’s focus on COMMUNICATION (and begin a new one focusing on LEADERSHIP—take the lead in sharing FCE!), I urge you to LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Western Region Family & Community Education
https://www.facebook.com/WRFCE/

Enjoy communicating about FCE!

Emma
Emma S. Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

“Developing excellent COMMUNICATION skills is absolutely essential to effective LEADERSHIP. The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can’t get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn’t even matter.”—Gil Amelio
**TAFCE Board Report—Emma Shupe, TAFCE-WR President**

The TAFCE Board met on January 4, 2018, via Zoom. Pamela Sites is now the TAFCE VP Programs. Eastern Region reported that there were 264 in attendance at the 2017 TAFCE Conference.

**Leadership-In-Action**

Leadership-In-Action will be held at the Gibson County Extension Office, 1252 Manufacturers Row, Trenton, on January 9, (snow date January 23—please note this new snow date because of a conflict at the venue).

To wrap up our FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION, we are asking each county to bring examples of how you communicate in your county. This could be copies of newsletters, newspaper articles, brochures, flyers, Facebook pages, etc. We will discuss these during Share-Time.

> "Sharing knowledge is the most fundamental act of friendship, because it is a way you can give something without losing something." —Richard Stallman

**TAFCE-WR BOARD NEWS**

**Vice President for Programs, Cynthia Summers**

Congratulations to the following winners of the TAFCE Creative Writing competition:

**POETRY**
- 1st Emma S. Shupe, Humphreys

**ESSAY**
- 1st Janie Jones, Dickson

**CHILDREN’S STORY**
- 3rd Vicki Rose, Gibson

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- 3rd Frances Allen, Obion

**Vice President for Public Policy, Linda Capra**

Congratulations to the following new FCL graduates at TAFCE Conference:

- Sheryl Butcher, Montgomery County
- Doris Fairrow, Montgomery County
- Hazel Gray, Obion County
- Patricia Long, Lawrence County
- Willie Mae Miller, Montgomery County
- Patricia Woods, Montgomery County

**Secretary, Lee Bittinger**

If your county is not on the following list (those on the list have been received), please send your updated County Council Officers and contact info to me by January 11th so I can finish the directory:

- Chester
- Dickson
- Gibson
- Humphreys
- Lawrence
- Montgomery
- Obion
- Weakley

**Treasurer, Sheryl Butcher**

Remember, if you have not already sent your LIA registration in by the postmark date, the fee will be $17 at the door, with no guarantee of lunch.

Please send dues (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**

Your Western Region FCE “Bees” are buzzing! We’re getting ready for Memphis in November using our theme “Bee Amazing, Bee FCE.” Come join us at the Memphis Hilton, November 11-14, 2018.

Two of our planning sessions are behind us with the next one being on Tuesday, January 9th, following Leadership-In-Action. Committees are in place and working hard. Two tours are being planned for your enjoyment, and we are overflowing with Learning Sessions and Walk-in Craft Workshops, some related to bees and/or honey, of course. Our keynote speaker for Tuesday morning is our own Carol Reese, Horticulture Specialist at West TN UT Extension Research Center, talking about “Sex in the Garden.” We probably need a few bees to welcome her on stage!

And the invitation at TAFCE Conference last November was simply outstanding. We made the place “buzz!” Thank you to all of our “bees” for making this happen.
**Education Chairs—Cultural Arts, Mary Koebler, Darlene Kobylas**

Congratulations to the following winners at TAFCE Conference:

**CROCHET**
- 1st Faye Barnett, Humphreys

**DOLLS**
- 1st Nadine Killion, Obion

**EMBROIDERY—MACHINE**
- 2nd Ann Luther, Dickson

**FINE ART PAINTING—ACRYLICS**
- 1st June Ross, Humphreys

**FINE ART PAINTING—CHAR/DRAW**
- 1st Debbie Schmidt, Houston

**FINE ART PAINTING—OIL**
- 1st Debbie Schmidt, Houston

**HANDCRAFTED TOY**
- 1st Brenda Petty, Dickson
- 2nd Diane Johnson, Obion

**HOLIDAY DECORATION**
- 1st Judi Fischer, Chester

**KNITTING—HAND**
- 1st Nadine Killion, Obion
- 2nd Ann Dunavant, Lauderdale

**PHOTOGRAPHY—BLACK/WHITE**
- 1st Beverly Guinn, Montgomery

**PHOTOGRAPHY—COLOR**
- 1st Emma Shupe, Humphreys
- 2nd Debbie Schmidt, Houston

**POTTERY**
- 2nd Nita Simpson, Obion

**QUILT—BABY/LAP**
- 1st Frances Allen, Obion

**QUILT—EMBROIDERED—HAND**
- 1st Nadine Killion, Obion

**QUILT—HPHQ**
- 1st Mary Louise Davis, Obion

**QUILT—MPHQ**
- 2nd Nadine Killion, Obion

**QUILT—MPMQ**
- 1st Ann Gambill, Dickson

**QUILT—PILOW**
- 2nd Linda Huntley, Lawrence

**QUILT—WALL HANGING**
- 2nd Brenda Winstead, Weakley

**SCULPTURE**
- 1st Nita Simpson, Obion
- 2nd Julia Alley, Lauderdale

**STAINED GLASS**
- 2nd June Ross, Humphreys

**TATTING**
- 1st Jane Fisher, Obion

**WEAVING—HAND**
- 2nd Alice Fennel, Obion

Please use the updated Cultural Arts categories in 2018. The new list, which has “Effective January 2018” at the bottom, can be found on the region webpage. Please note the following changes:

A—Adding new categories:
- Jewelry, non-beaded
- Paper Crafts
- Repurposing

B—Separating some categories:
- Holiday Decoration—Christmas
- Holiday Decoration—Non-Christmas
- Photo—B/W, Person
- Photo—B/W, Place
- Photo—B/W, All other
- Photo—Color, Person
- Photo—Color, Place
- Photo—Color, All other

C—Changing the category “Wood Carving” to “Woodworking”

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

Congratulations to the following winners at TAFCE Conference:

**SUIT, DRESSY ENSEMBLE**
- 1st Betty Quarles, Chester

**RECYCLED GARMENT**
- 2nd Alice Poole, Dickson

**DECORATIVE SWEAT WEAR**
- 1st Alice Fennel, Obion

**PURCHASED ITEM: CASUAL**
- 1st Alice Fennel, Obion

**PURCHASED: BETTER WEAR**
- 1st Susie Rogers, Obion

*The store of wisdom does not consist of hard coins which keep their shape as they pass from hand to hand; it consists of ideas and doctrines whose meanings change with the minds that entertain them.*

—John Plamenatz
McNairy County
Sharing Hearts FCE Club had a very productive year. At the first of the year, we set our goals that we wanted to accomplish, and they were some pretty high goals. As always, our ladies came together and accomplished what seemed like an endless list that we had set for ourselves. With lots of love and hours, we have managed to get everything done.

We held our annual yard sale, Potluck Supper, hosted the County FCE Christmas Party, and went on a Mystery Trip. We had multiple work days for our activities. This year for Community Action, we took part in the Imagination Library, Back to School Fest, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, as well as handing out information on child abuse at the Enville Firefighter’s Fundraiser. We also made walker bags for the local nursing home, and activity pads for Alzheimer’s patients. We helped out with the Special Needs Organization, and made sack dresses and shorts. We donated the unsold yard sale items to the Appalachian Mountain Ministry, provided snacks for Jackson Hospital ICU, donated to Angel Tree, donated to a local hospital, and donated soups and baked goods to our FCE fundraiser at the local Craft Mart. We were busy!

With all the activities and projects that we have going on, we still always remember that Family is first in FCE. A few of us have had personal things going on in our lives, but it is always good to know that the club is there for us. We know that no matter what is going on, someone will step up to the plate and get things done, a card sent, a phone call or text made, or a personal visit. We never know just how much the men and women in our group mean to us until we see that kindness and friendship from them.

So, as we start out a new year, we not only need to extend kindness to the ones we love, but to everyone in our clubs and community. We all need to extend invitations to others in our communities to come out and see what Family and Community Education is all about and what it has to offer.

From Sharing Hearts FCE Club to each and every one of you, we hope you have a Happy New Year!

—Patricia Davison

"Friendship marks a life even more deeply than love. Love risks degenerating into obsession, friendship is never anything but sharing." —Elie Wiesel

"Knowledge is like money: to be of value, it must circulate, and in circulating, it can increase in quantity and, hopefully, in value." —Louis L’Amour

"The best collaborations create something bigger than the sum of what each person can create on their own." —Anonymous

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.