Dear FCE Friends,

Have you ever marveled at a chain-link fence? A type of woven fence, chain-link has wires running vertically that are bent into a zig-zag pattern so that each “zig” hooks with the wire immediately on one side, and each “zag” hooks with the wire immediately on the other side, forming a diamond pattern (Wikipedia). Simple, yet its complexity makes it work—individuals connecting in unity.

So it is with FCE—we are individuals who zig and zag with each other to form a working unit. What connects us?

FCE members are linked together in a shared mission, goal, and vision. Our mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through continuing education, leadership development, and community service. Our goal is to educate. Our vision is to empower members to be the leaders in meeting the needs of our ever changing and diverse society.

As we zig and zag with each other—weaving our FCE stories, good works, and fun—we are building a strong working unit. We connect in our clubs, our clubs connect in county, counties connect in our region, and our region connects statewide, then nationwide. You are the link in this chain. You are the link that educates, that leads, that volunteers. You are the link that reaches out and keeps us connected.

You are FCE!
Reach out—link up—stay connected!

Emma

Emma S. Shupe, TAFCE-WR President

“\textit{The art of communication is the language of leadership.}” —James Humes

**DATES**

- August 1  Mini-Conference, Waverly UMC
- July 13-16  NAFCE Conference, Omaha, NE
- Sept. 18  2018 Conference Planning Meeting, 1:00 PM, Henderson County Ext. Office
- Nov. 5-8  2017 TAFCE Conference, Knoxville Hilton
- January 9  L-I-A, Gibson County Ext. Office
  (Snow date Jan. 16)
- Nov. 11-14  2018 TAFCE Conference, Memphis Hilton

“It is not enough to show people how to live better; there is a mandate for any group with enormous powers of communication to show people how to be better.” —Marya Mannes

**REPORTS**

**Line & Design Camp**

Line & Design Camp has been a great partnership between UT Extension and UT Martin Family and Consumer Sciences department. Over the last eight years, their team has helped us plan and implement exceptional camping experiences for over 400 youth. The campers have learned clothing construction skills, arts and crafts, and entrepreneurship, while building self-confidence.

We have had several FCE members over the years assisting in the clothing lab. This intergenerational experience has been rewarding for both the youth and FCE members. An author once described the experience as the power of connecting the strengths of older adults and youth in making a difference in each other’s lives. FCE members are helping to bring back a
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lost art, sewing, all while making lasting friendships with campers.

I want to thank TAFCE-WR for your yearly contribution of $300 to help provide partial scholarships for campers to attend Line & Design Camp. This year’s recipients are Jeslynn Woodward, Decatur County, Lexie Bennett, Dyer County, and Trinity Peoples, Madison County. Line & Design Camp is July 10-12 at UT Martin.

—Dr. Lynn Brookins, Program Leader

State Projects

WESTERN REGION

12 WR counties reported different volunteer activities in 2016 with totals as follows (The FCE member numbers reflect members reporting multiple projects):

LITERACY

705 FCE members volunteered 147,766 hours, reaching 24,901 FCE members and 20,288 non-FCE people, with $4,499.20 spent.

COMMUNITY ACTION

3,790 FCE members volunteered 26,799 hours, reaching 6,121 FCE and 742,578 non-FCE people, with $117,564.74 spent.

EDUCATION

1,234 FCE members volunteered 4,838 hours, reaching 4,245 FCE and 225,874 non-FCE people, with $16,612.00 spent.

TAFCE

41 TN counties reported different volunteer activities in 2016 with totals as follows:

LITERACY

2,470 FCE members volunteered 181,900 hours, reaching 338,455 people with $20,433.70 spent.

COMMUNITY ACTION

11,221 FCE members volunteered 131,757 hours, reaching 2,568,574 people with $197,930.33 spent.

EDUCATION

4,700 FCE members volunteered 41,892 hours, reaching 2,281,566 people with $60,632.74 spent.

TOTAL FOR TAFCE

355,549 hours were volunteered in 2016 which, at the US Government reported volunteer rate of $23.07, amounts to a value of $8,202,515.43.

A value of over $8 million in volunteer service hours were reported in 2016! Imagine what that total would have looked like had ALL of our members reported their hours of volunteer service!! Please keep track of your volunteer hours, fill out the reports, and turn them in for 2017!!!

These volunteer hours can also be reported for CVUs.

Mini-Conference

This year’s TAFCE-WR Mini-Conference will be August 1st at the Waverly United Methodist Church, 115 West Main Street, Waverly. The registration form can be found on the region webpage. Registration information should be sent to Sheryl Butcher by July 12th, along with the $15 registration fee, preferably with one check per county with a list of attendees.

TAFCE Conference 2017

TAFCE Education Chair Crystal Holt is working on a slide show of county flags for TAFCE Conference. She is asking each county to email her a picture of the county flag that is used for the flag presentation at
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TAFCE Conference. Flag pictures should be emailed to Crystal at pageantmom2002@gmail.com.

Leadership-In-Action
Our next regional Leadership-In-Action will be held at the Gibson County Extension Office, 1252, Manufacturers Row, Trenton, on January 9, 2018 (snow date January 16).

“Communication works for those that work at it.” —John Powell

TAFCE-WR BOARD NEWS
Vice President for Programs, Pamela Carroll
I received no nominees for President-Elect. If you know someone who qualifies (see Bylaws Art. IV, Sec. III, for qualifications; Sec. IV for duties) and would like to serve, please submit their nomination form to me ASAP (it must be received before the start of the Business Meeting at Mini-Conference).

Treasurer, Sheryl Butcher
New this fall, the membership list for 2018 from counties should be alphabetized; it should no longer be alphabetized by zip code. The new information can be found on our region webpage.

Please send a list of those attending Mini-Conference, along with one county check for those attending, to me by July 12th.

Conference Coordinator, Ann Luther
This is a reminder that the theme contest for the 2018 TAFCE Conference will be held at this year’s Mini-Conference. See the April issue of the region newsletter for details.

Our first planning session will be held on September 18th at 1:00 at the Henderson County Extension Office, 276 White Street, Lexington. More info about lunch options will follow in the September newsletter.

Please let me know on what committee you would like to serve to help make this a great conference!

Education Chairs—Cultural Arts, Esther Button, Mary Koebler
The procedure for a new Cultural Arts category is as follows:

- A category can be suggested for trial in region by submitting it in writing to the regional chairs to present to the TAFCE-WR Board. If adopted, the category would be tried for a three year period, documenting numbers. (Entries would not advance beyond region.)

- If successful in region, the regional CA Chairs, via the region President, can then recommend the category to the TAFCE Board. It is then up to the TAFCE Board to decide whether or not to adopt the category.

- Counties can try a new category in county at any time (reminding those entering this category that winners will not advance to region).

“Skill in the art of communication is crucial to a leader’s success. He can accomplish nothing unless he can communicate effectively.” —Anonymous

COUNTY NEWS
Dickson County
Spring has been a busy time. Our annual Spring Recognition Brunch was held on April 7th, recognizing Star Members; Reading Award recipients; CVU recipients; Outstanding Club Members Peggy Ervin, Helen Edlin, and Lea Elola; and Outstanding Education Leaders Helen Edlin and Gail Deberry. Our clubs donated items and money to the Dickson County Cancer Crusade Auction. Our membership tea was held on April 22nd, organized by Ann Luther and Lea Elola. The pillowcase dress workshop on April 24th, coordinated by Peggy Ervin and Barbara McMillan, was a great success, producing 57 dresses. Over 40 discovery aprons were made and are being
distributed, coordinated by Helen Edlin and Gail Deberry. Volunteers worked registration and provided cupcakes for the Happy Birthday Baby Shower held at Horizon Medical Center. In June, FCE volunteers hosted eight workshops on four days for the Dickson County Library Summer Program, coordinated by Brenda Petty and Alice Poole. Volunteers assisted a summer program at the Dickson Housing Authority on four occasions, coordinated by Gail Deberry and Dorothy Sanders. On June 19th, our Mid-Year Luncheon was held. Thanks to Anita Richardson, Wanda Eubank, and Dorothy Sanders, our Cultural Arts, Fashion Revue, and Creative Writing winners will be sent to the regional competition. Glenda Booker was announced as the winner of the membership drive. We look forward to many activities this summer! —Alice Poole

Humphreys County
Buffalo FCE Club hosted our Spring FCE Day on May 9th. The club used a picnic theme, and county members shared picnic foods for lunch. Ranger Bob Holliday spoke about the Johnsonville State Historic Park. For picnic fun in honor of National Lost Sock Day, several members created sock puppets for the sock puppet contest, won by Joyce Davis, and Buffalo and Friendship Clubs performed sock puppet skits. Cultural Arts entries were on display. Humphreys County FCE would like to say a special thank you to Jann Vanderlinden, Dickson County, and Sheryl Butcher, Montgomery County, for judging both Cultural Arts and sock puppets.

The Humphreys County Council voted to donate $200 to 4-H for partial scholarships to 4-H camp. This money, in addition to our scholarships to graduating high school seniors, comes from our Fall FCE Day Auction.

This year, our auction will be on October 10th, and is open to anyone. Call Emma at 931-209-0256 for info.

Humphreys County FCE looks forward to having TAFCE-Western Region in Waverly for Mini-Conference on August 1st!

—Emma S. Shupe

Pictured are Peggy Ervin and Barbara McMillan, International Educational Leaders, with pillow case dresses to be sent to the Philippines.

Pictured above are Joyce Davis and Sarah Wade (Buffalo FCE) performing a sock puppet skit, and below are Cyrstel Collier, Katie McFarlin, Judy Hughes and Virginia Capps (Friendship FCE).
**Lawrence County**

May was a busy month for members of the Lawrence County FCE. Besides attending the individual monthly club meetings, members participated in several special events.

On May 11, Margaret Adams from Stone Hill Apiary presented a Special Interest program entitled “Making Cosmetics from Beeswax,” including a demonstration on how to make skin lotion. She stated that products made from beeswax include soap, candles, ornaments, cosmetics, lip balm and medicinal creams. It is also used in woodworking and blacksmithing. Margaret listed the benefits of using beeswax cosmetics which contain vitamin A, hydrate skin, inhibit the growth of fungus and bacteria, act as a skin softener, and may reduce stretch marks.

During the week of May 15th, members assisted with an Extension program for middle-schoolers called “On My Own,” in which teens have the opportunity to learn what it means financially to be “on their own.” Each child was assigned an adult profile and given a financial status, and then received a list of their “expenses” and how to decide how to spend their “salary.” Some participants received a “windfall” while others had “curve balls” thrown at them.

On May 18th, Lawrence County FCE presented Car-Fit, a free interactive program designed to improve older driver safety. Trained volunteers provided information to ensure the safest “fit” of older drivers and their vehicles. The event was held at Rotary Park and was open to the public. This FCE program was co-sponsored by Southern TN Regional Health and the TN Department of Safety. Trained staff for the event included members of the TN Trucking Association, Rose Boyd from the TN Department of Safety, Graduate Belmont University Occupational Therapists, and TN Highway Patrol Lt. Tina Faulkner. Drivers were assisted with locating correct seat placements in order to avoid airbag injury in case of an accident, mirror adjustments, and vehicles were checked for tire wear and burned out lightbulbs. Occupational therapists showed participants how to easily enter and exit their vehicles.

FCE is a volunteer organization dedicated to presenting and disseminating educational materials relating to family and community education. —Laura Rummans

**McNairy County**

Sharing Hearts FCE Club has been very busy with club projects, and just having some fun. We participated in the Imagination Library by having a table in memory of our FCE club members that are no longer with us. We attended the Selmer FCE Garden Party with guest speaker Michelle Richards of Mammy’s Soap Company, and entertainment by Lloyd and Brenda Watkins Musical Enjoyment. The program and day were very enjoyable.

We went on our Mystery Trip, which was not what anyone expected. We went to Asahi Japanese Steakhouse. A couple of our ladies had never been to one before, where food is cooked right in front of you. Everyone enjoyed the visit and food. We especially enjoyed having Carol Latimer back visiting us.
We had a work day for Community Action projects. We worked on activity pads for Alzheimer’s patients, walker bags for the nursing home, and sack dresses, shorts and draw string bags for Christmas shoeboxes.

We also helped the Enville Firefighters with their fundraiser by providing baked goods. We handed out information sheets on what Sharing Hearts FCE is, and what some of our other projects are.

Sharing Hearts is looking forward to the rest of the year, and to our many projects and community involvement.

—Patricia Davison

Members pictured at Stash Furniture are Jane Hodge (Cookie Kutters) 10 Year Milestone Membership; Pat Foust (Cookie Kutters) 10 Year Milestone Membership; Cathy Faust (Family & Consumer Science Agent & FCE Advisor); Cathy Germillion (Bartlett); Cathy Luckett (Bartlett); Margie Hyde (Bartlett FCE); Marsha Loudenbeck (Bartlett) 25 Year Milestone Membership. Not pictured are Marian Sandifer (Cookie Kutters) 10 Year Milestone Membership; Sherry Ford (Cookie Kutters) 10 Year Milestone Membership; Merle Todd (Cookie Kutters) 15 Year Milestone Membership; Margaret Bass (Brunswick) 20 Year Milestone Membership; Marie Land (Shelby Center) 50 Year Milestone Membership; Edith Freeouf (Shelby Center) 59 Year Milestone Membership; Doris Eavenson (Member-at-large) 60 Year Milestone Membership.

—Cathy Faust

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.