Greetings from your President......

This has been an interesting year so far with the temperature fluctuations and crazy weather. We cancelled our state board meeting in January because of the temperature. Many of us are still pretty much staying close to home. As I write this I am flooded in, but know that by afternoon the creek will go down and I can get out. This gives us the opportunity to finish up those projects left undone from summer and fall and to plan ahead for gardens, new quilt designs, and cultural arts projects we want to try but never have. So do it now while you have the time.

Plans are going forward for the 2014 State Conference in Chattanooga in November. Committees are at work and exciting classes are planned. Even I, who am not “crafty,” am looking forward to making a calendar envelope. I just wish I could do it all! And one of the tours is to a place I’ve desired to visit for years. So there is something for everyone.

Our Western Region is moving forward on the 2015 Conference in Clarksville. I loved the hotel and hope you will also. Such reasonable rates! If you haven’t volunteered for something to do with this Conference, do so now. Possible themes will be considered and voted on at the August Board meeting. Put on those thinking caps now!

Enjoy the sunshine and listen for the birds. They are returning and we will be together again soon. Have a good, late winter.

Mary Lou Burch
TAFCE President

President’s Report............................... 1
Dates to Remember............................ 1
Newsletter Deadlines.......................... 1
Vice President for Programs Report...... 2
Vice President for Pub. Policy Report.... 2
Treasurer’s Report............................... 2
Secretary’s Report............................. 2
Eastern Region Ed. Chair Report.......... 3
Central Region Ed. Chair Report......... 3
Western Region Ed. Chair Report........ 3
Eastern Region President’s Report...... 4
Central Region President’s Report...... 4
Western Region President’s Report...... 4
2014 Conf. Coordinator’s Report......... 5
UT Advisor Report............................ 5
TAFCE Board Members....................... 6

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15 State Project Reports due
March 1 Character Counts due
March 2 “Read Across America”
April 1 FCL Registrations due
April 15 State Scholarships due
April 15 NAFCE Project Program book due
April 28-29 TAFCE Board Meeting
April 29-30 FCL Training
May 15 “Day of the Family”

“Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”
Abigail Adams
TAFCE Connection Newsletter—I’m proud to be bringing you our second TAFCE Newsletter. Thanks to everyone on the TAFCE Board that sent in articles and information in a very timely manner.

TAFCE Project Reports—22 counties have sent in their Project Reports as of February 12th. February 15th is the deadline for your Reports to be emailed or mailed to me.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS

FCL—It’s time to sign up for this year’s FCL classes. I’ve received 6 registrations from Kay Caldwell of Eastern Region and I’m sure I will hear from Central and Western Regions soon.

“Best of the Best”—applications will be due sometime this Spring in each Region. One applicant from each Region is due to me by August 1st.

I’d like to see more entries in this program. I’m sure every county has someone they can nominate. Take the time and honor someone in your county. Do it early enough so the person can get their materials organized. Check the guidelines for specific directions on the type of folder to be used, etc.

Certified Volunteer Units—CVUs are also due to this Spring from each Region and a summary to me by July 1st. Please PRINT your name clearly so it is printed correctly on your certificate. Remember to only submit your hours in 500-hour increments with a maximum of 2,000 per year.

Note to Counties—there is a “county” form to list your CVU recipients, alphabetically and mail that one summary form to the Region VP for Public Policy. Keep the individual forms in your counties. Any extra hours should be kept in your counties to carry over for the next reporting year.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Do we need a Statewide Membership Drive?

We currently have 4,486 members across the State. Eastern has 1,425; Central 1,972; Western 1,089. We’re down 371 members from last year.

Our 2013 TAFCE Annual Conference in Franklin had 354 in attendance; 303 attended the Banquet.

Our current checking account balance is $31,358.34. Our FCL checking account balance is $5,884.05 and we have 2 CDs totaling $24,786.97. Total funds as of 12/31/13: $65,679.36.

SECRETARY

Since our January 6, 2014 TAFCE Board meeting was cancelled due to weather issues, the last Board meeting was at the November 2013 Annual Conference.

There was a Pre-Board meeting on November 11, 2013 conducted by President Mary Lou Burch. We were honored to have nafce President Bonnie Teeples and her husband, Scott join us. We all exchanged gifts and had a great time!

During the Business Session on November 12, 2013, reports were given from each Board member. There was a ByLaws change presented concerning when elected officers take office but the Parliamentarian recommended the motion be “tabled” due to legal ramifications.

An FCE member suggested that Voting Delegates have an informal “gathering” prior to Business Sessions at the Annual Conference to discuss items of concern on the Agenda.

Gloria Fisher is your current TAFCE Secretary and you’ll be hearing from her in the next Newsletter.

TREASURER

Note to Counties—there is a “county” form to list your CVU recipients, alphabetically and mail that one summary form to the Region VP for Public Policy. Keep the individual forms in your counties. Any extra hours should be kept in your counties to carry over for the next reporting year.

SECRETARY

Since our January 6, 2014 TAFCE Board meeting was cancelled due to weather issues, the last Board meeting was at the November 2013 Annual Conference.

There was a Pre-Board meeting on November 11, 2013 conducted by President Mary Lou Burch. We were honored to have nafce President Bonnie Teeples and her husband, Scott join us. We all exchanged gifts and had a great time!

During the Business Session on November 12, 2013, reports were given from each Board member. There was a ByLaws change presented concerning when elected officers take office but the Parliamentarian recommended the motion be “tabled” due to legal ramifications.

An FCE member suggested that Voting Delegates have an informal “gathering” prior to Business Sessions at the Annual Conference to discuss items of concern on the Agenda.

Gloria Fisher is your current TAFCE Secretary and you’ll be hearing from her in the next Newsletter.

SECRETARY

Since our January 6, 2014 TAFCE Board meeting was cancelled due to weather issues, the last Board meeting was at the November 2013 Annual Conference.

There was a Pre-Board meeting on November 11, 2013 conducted by President Mary Lou Burch. We were honored to have nafce President Bonnie Teeples and her husband, Scott join us. We all exchanged gifts and had a great time!

During the Business Session on November 12, 2013, reports were given from each Board member. There was a ByLaws change presented concerning when elected officers take office but the Parliamentarian recommended the motion be “tabled” due to legal ramifications.

An FCE member suggested that Voting Delegates have an informal “gathering” prior to Business Sessions at the Annual Conference to discuss items of concern on the Agenda.

Gloria Fisher is your current TAFCE Secretary and you’ll be hearing from her in the next Newsletter.

SECRETARY

Since our January 6, 2014 TAFCE Board meeting was cancelled due to weather issues, the last Board meeting was at the November 2013 Annual Conference.

There was a Pre-Board meeting on November 11, 2013 conducted by President Mary Lou Burch. We were honored to have nafce President Bonnie Teeples and her husband, Scott join us. We all exchanged gifts and had a great time!

During the Business Session on November 12, 2013, reports were given from each Board member. There was a ByLaws change presented concerning when elected officers take office but the Parliamentarian recommended the motion be “tabled” due to legal ramifications.

An FCE member suggested that Voting Delegates have an informal “gathering” prior to Business Sessions at the Annual Conference to discuss items of concern on the Agenda.

Gloria Fisher is your current TAFCE Secretary and you’ll be hearing from her in the next Newsletter.
Fashion Revue—as we look forward to another year in TAFCE, I encourage every county to participate in their local Fashion Revue with a goal towards participation in the TAFCE Fashion Revue in Chattanooga in November.

Twenty-nine (29) members shared lovely fashion items at the TAFCE Fashion Revue in 2013 and I anticipate 2014 will be equally successful.

50-Year Member Applications—Counties or Regions please send your new 50-Year member applications to me by July 1st for recognition at the TAFCE Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

WESTERN REGION EDUCATIONAL CHAIR

Family and Community Education, through its various literacy projects, places top priority on learning. And, yes, it’s that time again. So sharpen your pencils, encourage fellow FCE members and mark your calendars for the TAFCE Scholarship and local Creative Writing contests!

TAFCE Scholarship—the deadline to submit applications is April 15th. The application and guidelines can be found on the tafce.org website. The winner will be selected at the April TAFCE Board meeting for the academic 2014-15 year. Along with the application, 2 letters of reference, an official transcript from the school’s Bursar office and a 250-word essay are required.

To be eligible for the $1,000 scholarship, applicant must be a TAFCE member for at least 2 years and enrolled in an accredited degree program or vocational school.

Please send completed application with additional requirements to me to the address below.

Creative Writing—now is the time to begin the Creative Writing process by entering your local county contests.

One of the most rewarding privileges of my life was to be involved as the Chair of the Writing program, first in Western Region and now on the State level. I felt honored to be allowed into the lives of our amazing FCE members through their prose and poetry. All entries were excellent! The judges remarked how wonderful, yet challenging, the selection process proved to be. “All were interesting! All were winners!”

Borrowing the National Storyteller League’s motto: “All the world loves a story...and every heart responds to the charm of a well-told tale.”

Let your life speak and tell its story through the FCE Creative Writing program. Happy writing!

...Cynthia Summers, Education Chair
257 E. Forrest Avenue
McKenzie, TN 38201
731.225.0010

EASTERN REGION EDUCATIONAL CHAIR

Cultural Arts—If you were not at the State Conference in Franklin, you missed seeing some lovely entries from your fellow FCE members across the State. There were 150 entries in 39 categories. Our members did a great job!

I hope you are taking advantage of this stay-at-home weather to work on your cultural arts items for this year. With 42 categories, it is possible to have 252 items entered across the State. It would be wonderful to have that many in Chattanooga in November!

Big change in Quilt Categories—It is now possible for those of you who piece tops and send them out to be quilted to enter those quilts.

Category #30 is now “Hand or Machine-Pieced & Professionally-Quilted.” This category allows the quilting to be done by someone other than the FCE member.

Applique and Cathedral Window quilt categories have been combined into Category #31 “Cathedral Window & Appliqué Quilts.”

Stay warm and work on those entries!

...Mary Sue Young, Chair

CENTRAL REGION EDUCATIONAL CHAIR

Cultural Arts—If you were not at the State Conference in Franklin, you missed seeing some lovely entries from your fellow FCE members across the State. There were 150 entries in 39 categories. Our members did a great job!

I hope you are taking advantage of this stay-at-home weather to work on your cultural arts items for this year. With 42 categories, it is possible to have 252 items entered across the State. It would be wonderful to have that many in Chattanooga in November!

Big change in Quilt Categories—It is now possible for those of you who piece tops and send them out to be quilted to enter those quilts.

Category #30 is now “Hand or Machine-Pieced & Professionally-Quilted.” This category allows the quilting to be done by someone other than the FCE member.

Applique and Cathedral Window quilt categories have been combined into Category #31 “Cathedral Window & Appliqué Quilts.”

Stay warm and work on those entries!

...Gloria Holcomb, Chair
“May Day FCE Camp” is planned for May 20-22 at the 4-H Camp in Greeneville this year. Entertainment will be provided by the “Boys from ETSU” and there will be contests, crafts, educational sessions, silent auction, etc. Also, Boy Scout Troop 99 from Greeneville will be conducting a “Flag Retirement” ceremony if anyone has a flag that needs this attention.

There will be a “table decorating” contest on Wednesday morning with the “May Day” theme in mind.

Registration and more details will soon be posted on the Eastern Region website. Everyone across Tennessee is invited to attend—fce member or not.

**Campbell County**—Council Officers banded together to help raise funds for their clubs. They chose a beautiful UT orange and white, twin-size quilt. The winner was Donna.

Members volunteered with TENCEP and the 21st Century After School Program to implement school programs, learn to sew, judge 4-H speeches, etc.

The Veteran’s Hospital in Johnson City was the recipient of 59 one-gallon bags of hygiene items, writing materials, etc. Bags are prepared twice a year.

“Count the Homeless in Campbell County” is an upcoming program that FCE members will help the local law enforcement and government agencies conduct.

**Grainger County**—members enjoyed making bird feeders from pinecones filled with peanut butter, seeds, oats, etc. In April they will be cleaning up the outside of their local Extension Office.

**Union County**—for the second year, members met and sewed 42 flannel blankets for the Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Knoxville.

---Ferne Baxter, President

---Betty Jo Haskell, President

---Emma S. Shupe, President
2014 CONFERENCE REPORT

The Eastern Region is in full force planning the final stages of the 2014 TAFCE Annual Conference in Chattanooga, November 2-5. Below is a sneak peak at some of the highlights.

—Jazzy Jar Sale
—Jewelry Sale
—Trash-to-Treasure classes
—Quilt to be given away. Each county has made a quilt square that will be made into a quilt which will go home with one lucky person attending the banquet. Tickets will be available for a “donation” at the Conference.

—General Session speaker on Tuesday morning will bring you inspiration and laughter.

—Banquet Entertainment: Close your eyes and you’ll think that Patsy Cline is on the stage with her band!

—$300 cash give-away to one lucky attendee at the Banquet.

All this and more! Please make plans to come!

...Phyllis Forsythe
Conference Coordinator

UT TAFCE STATE ADVISOR

Good plans shape good decisions. That’s why good planning helps to make elusive dreams come true. Lester R. Bittel

Our dreams of the future are to strengthen families and build strong and healthy communities. To look forward to the future we must plan together to engage our youth to understand and value our work through TAFCE and Family and Consumer Sciences Extension. Several counties have begun proactive plans by starting TAFCE clubs led by youth in the county. What an exciting and potentially rewarding way to build the leadership skills and appreciation for TAFCE. Last week I met one of these budding young leaders named Annie. She has organized a club of five young people, all who have joined the state and national FCE organization. She was bubbling with excitement as she shared how she had grown because of this experience.

We are working to invest in young family and consumer sciences professionals through our career Edge Internship program. This year we will be cost sharing with four counties—Blount, Sumner, Haywood and Loudon—to host summer interns. Through this program, young professionals have the opportunity to work closely with a Family and Consumer Sciences agent to gain valuable on-the-job training. Many TAFCE members have been key in training these summer interns through the years. Your investment of resources, time and encouragement is invaluable as we train the next generation of leaders and professionals.

As we move forward with our shared dream of giving our youth opportunities in FCE and FCS programs, let’s give thought to a plan of action that will help us be successful together.

Best wishes to you,

...Laura Stephenson
Assistant Dean
Family and Consumer Sciences
UT Extension
2014 TAFCE Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mary Lou Burch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marylouburch@frontiernet.net">marylouburch@frontiernet.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Delinia Storr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:delinia@jcproduction.net">delinia@jcproduction.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President for Programs</td>
<td>Phyllis Narus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pnarus@yahoo.com">pnarus@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President for Public Policy</td>
<td>Donna Eliott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shobby1@utk.edu">shobby1@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Gloria Fisher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thefishersattansi@frontiernet.net">thefishersattansi@frontiernet.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ann Luther</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annluth03@comcast.net">annluth03@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Region President</td>
<td>Ferne Baxter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baxterp@juno.com">baxterp@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Region President</td>
<td>Betty Jo Haskell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjhaskell@bellsouth.net">bjhaskell@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region President</td>
<td>Emma Shupe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esshupe@yahoo.com">esshupe@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Educational Chair</td>
<td>Gloria Holcomb</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ericholcomb600@centurytel.net">ericholcomb600@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Educational Chair</td>
<td>Mary Sue Young</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marylou18@utk.edu">marylou18@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Educational Chair</td>
<td>Cindy Summers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cynthiasummers257@gmail.com">cynthiasummers257@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Advisor</td>
<td>Dr. Laura Stephenson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsteph18@utk.edu">lsteph18@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Advisor</td>
<td>Dr. Martha Keel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkeel@utk.edu">mkeel@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Region Advisor</td>
<td>Linda Bower</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lkbower@utk.edu">lkbower@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Region Advisor</td>
<td>Allisen Penn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allisenpenn@utk.edu">allisenpenn@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region Advisor</td>
<td>Dr. Lynn Brookens</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbrooki1@utk.edu">dbrooki1@utk.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Find something you care about then live your life to show it.”

...author unknown