



TAFCE Connection

2021 Winter Edition

Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of Family and Community Education
Issue 7.1



Our new year of 2021 has begun and I hope it is a year of being able to be with loved ones and being able to meet with friends in person. Many agree that 2020 was a most unusual year. Many FCE members lost so much during the tornados and then came the pandemic. We could no longer meet in groups and were asked to stay home if you were not an essential employee. May I say that each of you are very special and essential; not just to your families and communities, but to FCE.

In April several state winners are due to NAFCE. Those include: Heart of FCE winner, Spirit of FCL winner and Character Counts winner. Those names submitted from Tennessee in 2020 are recognized in this newsletter and they will also be recognized at conference in November. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your service and dedication to FCE.

I would like to take a moment to thank each of you who have participated in the "Mask of Love" project. You were willing to step forward to help others during a very difficult time and it shows just how committed you are to your local communities. I know you did it to help but please turn in your CVU hours for this project next year.

I read a headline sometime back that said, "Death would be better than this" and it made me so sad. I challenge each of you to pick up your phone or write a card to stay in touch with those you know who may be alone or sick during this time. Your call or card will let them know that you care and that they are not alone. Sharing kindness is the FCE way.

In words of encouragement from Mother Teresa she said, "The good you do today, will often be forgotten. DO GOOD ANYWAY". I thought to myself that was such a good description of FCE members. They volunteer for their community not to be remembered but because it is the right thing to do. It is such a privilege to be the leader of such a wonderful group of people.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Remember these are "State" deadlines,
NOT Region or County.

March 2	Character Counts Winners Due- Wanda Briddelle
March 2	Read Across America
March 2	Regional Heart of FCE Due- Wanda Briddelle
March 2	Spirit of FCL Nominee Due- Wanda Briddelle
March 15	FCL class list due-Diane Uher
March 22-28	National Drug and Alcohol Fact Week
April 2	FCL List and Checks due- Brenda Johns
April 15	State Scholarship Applications Due-Pamela Sites

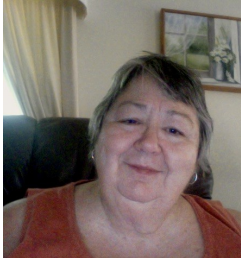
Newsletter Deadlines

May Issue—May 5th
September Issue—September 5th
Send Newsletter articles via email to the
Educational Chair Crystal Holt



VP for Public Policy: Diane Uher

**PRESIDENT-Elect
Gloria Fisher**



Do you love to write? Want to share with those of us who love to read? Then, the Creative Writing Program is for you. Any dues paying member of TAFCE that is not a professional writer can enter in one or all of the six categories (1. Poetry, 2. Essays, 3. Short Stories 4. Children's

Story, 5. Featured Article/News Article, and 6. Miscellaneous) of competition. For details, go online: Type TAFCE which will lead you to <https://ag.tennessee.edu/tafce>. Then go to "FORMS". Last, open "Creative Writing Program". Winners will be published in a book that will be distributed to winners and available for purchase to others.

**CENTRAL REGION EDUCATIONAL CHAIR:
Crystal Holt**



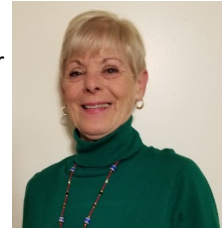
With FCE relying on the virtual world more and more I would like to extend my services to any member that is having problems understanding or creating an online presence to stay connected. Please feel free to call me or email me and I will do my best to help anyone that needs it.

We are hoping to have a state conferenced this year but Central Region Retreat and also FCL will be virtual I urge all our members to use this opportunities to reconnect with your members. It is always great to see and hear from your fellow members weather it is in person or virtually. Please make sure you are keeping yourself connected with all members even a phone call can go along way with retaining members and keeping them involved with our organization.

As a state board we are working hard to keep everyone up to date on Facebook and also through email. We are so happy to see all the great things all of our members have been doing even though they have been quarantined. Please keep up the great work.

Stay Healthy and Safe
Crystal Holt

2020 TAFCE BEST OF THE BEST? I do not have the answer to that question. However, the Eastern Region, Central Region and Western Region County Councils each made that extremely difficult decision from



all their outstanding members of their communities. Those individuals are: Ernestine Haun-Eastern Region, Hamblen County; Phyllis McKinney-Central Region, Smith County; and Alice Poole-Western Region, Dickson County. CONGRATULATIONS!!!! The Nominations Packets have been sent to the Evaluation Committee at UTK and the Winner will be announced at the 2021 TAFCE Conference. PLEASE congratulate these outstanding leaders!!

FCL!!! FCL!!! FCL!!!! New application due dates for 2021!!! Regional Vice Presidents, I need your lists by March 15, 2021 for the Spring Session. The Spring Session will be virtual April 20,21 & 22, 2021. For the Fall Session, I need your lists by July 19, 2021 and the Fall Session will be August 24-25, 2021. I have REALLY MISSED the FCL training and meeting all the FCE members from across the state.

I am now going to repeat myself from the Spring Newsletter and Fall Newsletter. YOUR CVU HOURS ARE VITAL!!!!!! I know FCE members are and have been making lots and lots of face masks, making phone calls to shut-ins, picking up groceries and prescriptions for friends and neighbors, praying with people on the phone, sewing cancer hats and bags, and providing clothes protectors for nursing home residents. I know all of our members are involved in activities that help their communities!!! I NEED each of you to write down the time you spend helping people. PLEASE! TENNESSEE IS THE VOLUNTEER STATE and the TAFCE IS THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION!!!!!!

BE SAFE and BE POSITIVE!!!!!! NO VIRIUS is going to stop us!!!!

Please join our FCE Facebook pages.

Western: Western Region Family & Community Education

Central: TAFCE Central Region FCE

Eastern: Eastern Region FCE

State: Tennessee Association for Family and Community Education (TAFCE)



VP for Program: Pam Sites

50-Year Members

As we continue to quarantine and social distance, it is hard to remember your TAFCE board is still hard at work. But we are continuing in spite of COVID-19. Let us congratulate our new 50-year members. If you see any of them, congratulate them and ask them how the last 50 years has changed for fce.

Eastern Region:

Pauline G. Newport from Scott County's Scott County fce Club. She has enjoyed all the people and friends she has met and the things she has made and learned through fce.

Alma LauvrayWallace from Campbell County's Well Springs Club. She told about helping the community as the Home Demonstration Clubs and not knowing what to serve for a luncheon of the area farmers. Ask Doris about it. She also said she has become a better person from the leadership of the agents and care for her "fellowman".

Central Region:

Georgia Hensley from Moore County's Lynchburg Club. Georgia has held many offices within fce. She has given many classes and taught safety classes for the legal system. She has been involved in many community organizations. She worked at the US Postal Service for over 20 years.

Nina Merritt from Rutherford County's Rockvale fce Club. Nina was a part of the Eagleville fce Club until 2018. The Eagleville Club had been in existence for 88 years, but membership declined to two working members. Over the 50 years of membership, Nina served in many leadership positions. When she was President of the Eagleville Club in the members decided they needed a bicentennial project. The club under took the project of a Public Library. On Sept 5, the Eagleville Bicentennial Public Library was opened. She also accomplished getting several ribbons with entries in Fashion Review, Flower and Garden, and Cultural Arts. Nina looks forward too many more years as a member working with the members of the Rockville Club fce.

Western Region:

Doris Welch Swindle from Decatur County' Concord fce Club. Doris grew up in a family that volunteered a lot and were very involved in community activities. Her mother Nina Welch was a wonderful home-maker. Mrs. Welch helped to organize the first Concord Home Demonstration club in 1940. When Doris was born, she attended the meetings with her mother. She grew up attending the meetings and knowing all about the Home Demonstration club. After Marriage and her first child, Doris moved back to Decatur County and carried on the tradition by carrying her baby, Jennifer to the meetings. Doris Swindle said, "That was 50 years ago. A lot has changed but I still enjoy monthly meetings which is now called the FCE Club."

If any of you have not gotten your pin and certificate, please let me know.

Congratulations to all and wishes for many more years in fce.

Scholarship Winner

The TAFCE State Board received three applications for the scholarship. Unfortunately, our funds do not allow us to grant more than one scholarship. After reviewing each application, the board selected Hannah Byrnes. Hannah has been a member of fce since she was ten years old. She is a senior attending Middle Tennessee State University's Wright School of Music as a Piano Theory/Composition Music Major. Hannah dreams of traveling the world composing and arranging piece for symphonies, hymns, Irish music, jazz, and different genres. She especially wants to have some impact on the military as the military has had an impact on her. If you attended the 2019 State convention, Hannah played for our sing-a-long of God Bless America, then played for Fashion Revue.

January 2021

Here we are in 2021 and still doing zoom meetings. This is a reminder to all that State Project Reports are still due February 14, 2021. Don't forget you still made mask and helped organize food delivers, etc. even though we were quarantined and social distanced.

Are there any members wishing to receive the TAFCE Scholarship? They are due April 15, 2021.

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EASTERN REGION PRESIDENT
Joyce Ernst



I moved to Eastern TN from MI in 2000 when I retired from my job as a social worker for the State of MI. I worked in Children's Services as a supervisor for Protective Services. I also previously supervised Foster Home Licensing and the Adoption Program. I have been very involved in many patriotic and charitable organizations. In MI I served on the State Board for NSDAR. In TN I have served on the State Board for NSCDVIIC and NSDCW. I have also served on the National Board for NSDU.

I love crafting, genealogy, line dancing, aerobics, camping and travel. I was introduced to TAFCE nine years ago by my neighbor, Cheri Davidson who was a FCE member. I have served as president in my club as well as other officer positions. I have also served as president for the County Council in Cumberland County. I have attended and graduated from FCL.

I am the third oldest of 10 children. I have been married to my husband, Jim for 32 years. We have four children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. I enjoy traveling back to MI to see family and friends.

As new Eastern Region President, I am looking forward to working with the Eastern Region and State Board to provide quality programs, conferences and leadership to promote TAFCE with the emphases on recruitment and retention of members. I hope you have already circled May 18-20 at Greenville for our Spring Camp.

CENTRAL REGION PRESIDENT
Mary Alice Weber



Presently, our 2021 Central Region membership stands strong at 1462 FCE members and 24 National Members. This represents 92% of our 2020 membership! Our Central Region Information Day was held on January 19, 2021 via zoom with approximately 110 FCE members and agents in attendance.

We held a successful first-time ever Central Region virtual retreat on November 9-11. This was the brainchild of extension agent and FCE member, Whitney Danhof, from Bedford County. Fourteen Central Region UT/TSU Extension Agents and ten FCE members joined forces to serve on the planning committee and sub-committees to create the virtual retreat. Approximately 130 FCE members or agents attended at least one session. Of those participants that completed the evaluation survey, 97% reported that the retreat helped to improve their mental health, 83% expanded their technology skills, 91% said it helped to relieve the isolation and connect with others, and encouraged 97% to continue their FCE membership.

We are busy planning a virtual retreat for May 2021 with the opportunity for small group and socially distanced participation at the county level, if desired.

In an attempt to stay connected with our FCE members during this time of the pandemic, we have utilized weekly *"Thursday Tidbits"* on our *TAFCE Central Region Facebook group*, in addition to emails to county council presidents. Our *Central Region Executive Board* has convened multiple times via zoom to manage business and plan for upcoming FCE events. We announced our *Central Region awards and winners through the Central Region newsletter and Facebook, highlighting our Best of the Best and Heart of FCE award winners with two special video presentations.*

We have a new Central Region website which is still under construction at <https://tafcecr.wixsite.com/2020crfce>.

Mary Alice Weber, TAFCE Central Region Presi-

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Central Region UT Advisor
Shelly Barnes

Mask of Love

The Masks of Love project began in 2020 as a response to DeKalb and Wilson County community level needs. The project quickly elevated to a statewide effort to provide homemade sewn masks to Tennessee healthcare workers and those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic as a TAFCE state project.

To date, 45,757 masks have been made in Tennessee with a total number of 32,758 volunteer hours. According to the Independent Sector, the volunteer rate is \$27.20 per hour. The total economic benefit of this project is \$891,017.60. What began as an Extension outreach in DeKalb and Wilson counties by a few FCE and community members has now grown to 50 counties and over 850 FCE members, 4-H members and community volunteers.

This project mirrors efforts made by community members 80 years ago during WWII. FCE, then known as Home Demonstration Clubs, participated in a nationwide mattress-making project, designed to provide decent bedding for low-income families. The healthcare workers are in many ways like soldiers at war-time and are on the front line to take care of our citizens. They have been very grateful for receiving face masks from Extension volunteers.

WESTERN REGION PRESIDENT
Barbara Beeman

No Report Submitted

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Unmask FCE Stories

*You are cordially invited to the FCE State
Conference*

November 14-17, 2021

At the Embassy Suite, Cool Springs

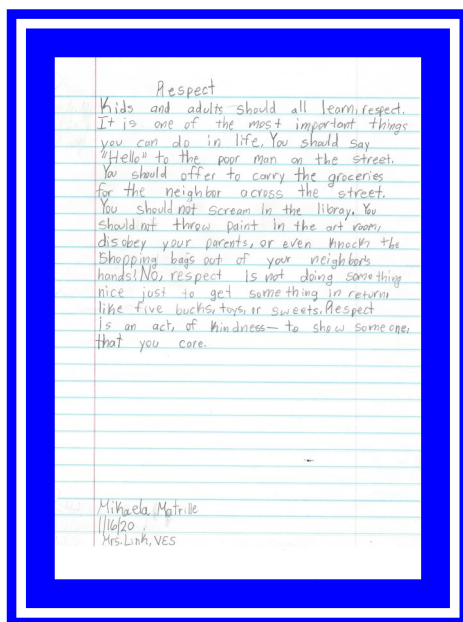
Come unmask our FCE stories

For more information see the state website

ag.tennessee.edu



Emily Gordon was nominated as TAFCE Heart of FCE winner for 2020. We congratulate Emily on this prestigious award and for all the work she does for FCE.



2020 Character Counts Winner, Mikaela Matrilie

Mikaela is from Cumberland Furnace, TN (Dickson) and we want to congratulate her. It is our hope that she will be able to join us at conference in 2021

TAFCE announces the 2020 SPIRIT OF FCL AWARD

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In 2017 members of the Williamson County FCE chose End Slavery Tennessee as their state project. They worked on it throughout the year and on January 11, 2018 along with their community partners presented a Human Trafficking Awareness Conference. The invitation read "In Tennessee, 94 teens a month are deceived, tormented and sold, usually for sex. Yet, whenever we speak about human trafficking right here in our own backyards in Tennessee, people say, "I had no idea." By increasing awareness, we reduce, bit by bit, the freedom traffickers have to operate in Williamson County."

Presenters at that conference were from law enforcement, criminal justice, cyber security businesses, clergy and victim assistance organizations. They empowered attendees to recognize the red flags of human trafficking, to teach others about these signs, and to develop networks to offer assistance. Approximately 115 community leaders completed the conference.

What a tribute to the work of these FCE Members. They learned about a problem and looked for some way they might be of help to educate others about the problem.

We would like to congratulate the members of Williamson County FCE who worked tirelessly on this project.

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**TAFCE Central Region Advisor
Carla Bush**

I take pride in the Central Region leading the way on so many FCE projects and programs through the years, like being the only region to hold a virtual FCE Conference. This is due in part to being life-long learners and growing from new knowledge and skills. We enjoy getting together with our friends, but learning opportunities and true change can occur from difficult conversations. An agent came to me with a tough conversation, and we're all learning from this.

Recently, the FCS agents planned a meeting using a Dr. Seuss theme. It was brought to my attention by an agent that Dr. Seuss has a dark past. After researching Dr. Seuss it is evident that his works aren't consistent with our university's dedication to diversity. As an organization, Extension is actively seeking a greater understanding, as a result we decided to change the theme to be more inclusive. In a February 2019 NPR article, it says the NEA rebranded Read Across America to move away from Seuss. Some FCE Club members may have already known this, but this was new information to me. Here is a link to the NPR article referenced: <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2019/02/26/695966537/classic-books-are-full-of-problems-why-cant-we-put-them-down>

The agent who came forward to share this information and their feelings with me is to be commended. Without this conversation we would not have known the situation. There was no expectation for action, but her sharing how she felt opened the eyes of so many and created the opportunity to learn something new and grow with this information. Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." It is my hope that we will all continue to grow and learn from each other, and have relationships with one another where we feel open to have difficult conversations.

Sincerely,
Carla Bush

NEW TAFCE Board for 2020 & UT Advisors		
Office	Name	E-Mail
President	Wanda Briddelle	bnawjb@tds.net
President-Elect	Gloria Fisher	gloriafisher00@gmail.com
Vice President for Programs	Pam Sites	pfsitesfce@gmail.com
Vice President for Public Policy	Diane Uher	uherdj@gmail.com
Secretary	Eileen Horton	ehorton194272@gmail.com
Treasurer	Brenda Johns	gailmayjohns54@gmail.com
Eastern Region President	Joyce Ernst	jimandjoyce@gmail.com
Central Region President	Mary Alice Weber	maryaliceweber49@gmail.com
Western Region President	Barbara Beeman	mamabee@twotzus.com
Eastern Educational Chair Fashion Revue	Carolyn Thomas	bsomom72@comcast.net
Central Educational Chair ITT/Communications	Crystal Holt	crystalholtfce@gmail.com
Western Educational Chair Cultural Arts	Esther Button	buttonjar1960@yahoo.com
State Advisor (Assistant Dean)	Dr Janet Fox	jfox35@utk.edu
State Advisor (<i>part-time</i>)	Dr. Martha Keel	mkeel@utk.edu
Eastern Region Advisor	Justin Bryan Thomas	jthom120@utk.edu
Central Region Advisor	Carla Bush	cybush@utk.edu
Western Region Advisor	Dr. Lynn Brookins	dbrooki1@utk.edu