

November 2024

fce. TODAY

The Official Publication of the National Association for Family & Community Education

Report from the President

It's a cold November morning here in Kansas. We have received some rain this month. My sister-in-law told me once that wheat has to die 9 times before you harvest it!!! We will see, for now our wheat crop looks great.

The National FCE Board meets via zoom in the fall. Our last meeting this fall will be next week. Then we will meet January through June next year. Meeting in person is always best, but meeting by zoom has allowed the board to cover so many things that got over looked in the past. The vice presidents and coordinators are working on Hearth Fires and FCL presentations for 2025.



The National Board has been working with Bonnie Teeples on the 2025 ACWW USA Area Conference. This will be a combined meeting of all ACWW Societies in the United States. This will be a first I believe. Bonnie has shared some plans in her ACWW article for this issue of the FCE Today. National FCE will be the Hostess Society. Our conference will be different than what we have done in the past. Our Annual Business Meeting will be on Monday July 21, 2025. It will be open to anyone attending. We will be honored to have the ACWW World President Madgie de Kock join us. Any society that is a member of ACWW will be invited to attend ~ I'm not sure how many or their names. We will learn that as we share our ideas. I do know there are three National Societies ~ National FCE, National Volunteer Outreach Network, and Women's National Farm and Garden Association and the chair of CWC. There are numerous other societies that don't have a national organization.

Our National Board members will present the Hearth Fires and the FCL lessons on Tuesday and Thursday. There will also be an opportunity to learn from the other societies. They will be presenting educational lessons, and there will be outside speakers.

The National Board Alumni is offering 10, yes TEN, First Time Scholarships for this conference. Don't miss an opportunity to attend.

I will repeat what Bonnie has said: **Save the dates July 21-24, 2025**, on your calendars, so you can be with us In Erlanger, Kentucky and celebrate the members of the ACWW USA Area.

There is a lot of information in this issue of the FCE Today ~ But if you have questions don't hesitate to contact one of the board members.

Wishing all happy holidays ~ a thankful Thanksgiving and a joyous time with family and friends.

Judy Fullmer
National FCE President



NATIONAL FCE MIDYEAR MEETING

***“SAVE THE
DATE”***

***2025 National FCE
Mid-Year Conference***

Monday, February 10, 2025 @ 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm CT

The National FCE Board is planning a 2025 Midyear meeting for Monday February 10 with two times to attend ~ 1 pm or 7 pm Central Standard Time. The board will be presenting information on FCE topics. We hope to be able to answer any questions members have about filling out forms, what information National is looking for, and how National FCE uses that information. **There is no charge for FCE**

members, and Friends of FCE, to attend. Zoom links for the Mid-Year Conference will be emailed out, by Scott Teeples, starting in January 2025.

National Board Alumni Scholarship

National FCE Alumni received a thank you letter from Peggy Richmond and Sarah Sharp who each received scholarships to the National FCE Conference in 2024

The FCE Tool Kit for Local FCE was used many times for information to educate members. Finding out that many of their members do not know what FCE is all about and with the help of the Tool Kit can see new leaders being developed.



National FCE membership was put on the agenda for the Annual Meeting held in September. Membership forms were made and information about NAFCE was made available to all attendees. They outlined specific benefits of supporting the National organization by becoming a member and introduced the Legacy Fund. They announced the Alumni Scholarship of 10 first timers to the conference in 2025.

They reported speaking to their members about the National and State Project in support of the Food Security project with education and action and their goals for the third year of this ongoing project. They are educating by sharing material available about Food Waste, access to quality produce and volunteering at Food Banks. They are going to work with the extension office to offer classes for young mothers and home makers concerning shopping, where to shop, how to shop, what fresh and whole foods are better quality as opposed to processed foods.

They also shared all the information regarding FCL classes with the State Board. They have signed up to teach several classes regarding Food Waste at the Leadership Retreat in the Spring.

For sure one is planning on going to the conference in 2025. She is looking forward to the many opportunities to share FCE information in the coming year.

HOW TO APPLY:

- go to nafce.org and you will be on the “Home Page”
- click on “Resource Library” near the bottom.
- the column on the right is “Additional Resources” – go to the bottom.
- click on “National Conference Scholarship (Alumni)”
- the form is what comes up next.

Remember there will be ten (10) scholarships awarded for the 2025 Conference.

ACWW Updates

By Bonnie Teeples – USA Area ACWW President

Happy Fall! I think Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the colors, the smells, and the sights of Fall! It is late enough now that the leaves have been raked and put to compost and just in time as we have been having some much-needed rain.

As the year is winding down to a close, I have been reflecting on this past year and the new friendships I made, and the friendships that have been renewed. I appreciate you all and the influence you have on my life and the support you give me as the ACWW USA Area President. I truly enjoyed every conference that I attended. I meet so many great members at the conferences and love to hear their stories and their history in ACWW. Sometimes when we meet someone there is an immediate bond and other times that bond takes a while to forge. But always there are nuggets of information



exchanged that make me a better person and leader, and I hope that you have gained from me as well.

As I wrote in my last area newsletter the three National Society Presidents and the CWC Chair and I are working on the 2025 ACWW USA Area Conference. There are great plans in place, and we are working on outside speakers as well as having presentations by our own members. This conference will be a showcase of all the good our societies do and the opportunity to share that good with other societies in the USA.

Conference will begin on **Monday, July 21, 2025**, with the Hostess Society, **National FCE**, holding their annual conference. Other members will gather that day and that evening we will hold a Meet and Greet. On Tuesday, the conference will begin with an ACWW USA Area business meeting and that afternoon there will be learning sessions. Wednesday there will be tours and crafts in the morning and Society meetings and learning sessions in the afternoon. Thursday morning will continue with society reports and learning sessions in the afternoon. And of course, we will have times for World President Magdie de Kock and Executive Director Tish Collins to speak to the body of the conference! Thursday night, July 24, 2025, will be our closing banquet. We also will have display space for your project display boards and or your brochures. **Save the dates July 21-24, 2025**, on your calendars, so you can be with us In Erlanger KY and celebrate the members of the ACWW USA Area.



As you may have read in the ACWW World Presidents newsletter on November 5, 2024, ACWW was granted an upgrade of our status with UNESCO to Associate Status.



This is exciting as it will bring with it the opportunity to advance our activities for change.

ACWW has also released the sixth podcast, 'Diplomacy and Politics.' It is available on the ACWW website. I feel that all six of the podcasts have been enlightening. Showcasing women in leadership positions is a good way to move the aims of ACWW forward.

Orange the World!

The 2024 Annual campaign of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence begins November 25, 2024, and runs until December 10, 2024. For 16 years ACWW has worked with other women and women's organizations to take action to end the violence. This year's theme is 'Come Together, Act Now.' ACWW has prepared a packet of informational fliers that you can use to share on your social media pages or in your area. The information pack can be found at www.acww.org.uk and is available to download in two formats.



Please join ACWW in the campaign to 'Orange the World' to help raise awareness about this issue.

2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest

Written by Scott Teeples – Contest Coordinator

National FCE is excited to announce that starting in 2025, there will be a National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest. During the National FCE Conference several states indicated that they would support participation in this National High School Age Essay Contest. The theme for the 2025 Essay Contest is **TRUSTWORTHINESS.**



Throughout the years there have been discussions across the USA about producing some way of involving and introducing young adults into the National Association for Family and Community Education (FCE). FCE across the nation has been suffering from membership loss and we all needed to find a way of inviting young people into FCE. Throughout the years, 4th grade students were introduced to FCE through the National 4th Grade Essay and Artwork contest. This is one way to introduce and invite young adults into FCE.

Some of the basics of the Contest include:

- Using the generic Essay Contest Forms, which are located on the National FCE website, each State will need to set up and conduct their own State Essay Contest.
- Each State will need to provide any monetary awards for their State Essay Contest award winners.

- Each State will submit their 1st Place winner's essay and forms to National FCE on/before **April 1, 2025**.
- The contest is open to all High School Age students.
- The contest must use the current 2025 rules and be written on the theme of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**.
- The contest can be completed at home, school, church or wherever.
- The contest must be done following all the complete rules as listed in the contest forms packet.

All of the forms and information for the 2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest can be located on the National FCE website

The Six Pillars of CharacterSM



<https://www.nafce.org/resourcelibrary> These

are generic forms and will need to be formatted for each State Contest. Instructions for editing the generic forms are also located on the website. You can see a formatted, and completed, contest form for Oregon FCE at www.oregon-fce.org.

Please contact Scott Teeples, 2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest Coordinator, Phone/Text: 541-891-6456; Email: sfteeples@outlook.com if you have any questions.



2026 is just around the corner! Do you know what that means? National FCE will be celebrating our 90th anniversary as an organization! WOW! Not many make it that far. Let's have a big celebration. What might be your ideas? Let Margaret Polen (margaretmai531@gmail) know your thoughts. The Future of FCE Committee will be putting ideas together and working with the Board to plan this special event.

There is no color assigned to this anniversary, nor a flower. However, granite and diamond/emerald are considered both traditional and current celebration ideas.

BUYING, HEALING, BUDGETING, EATING

Four Hearth Fires that support our Food Security Project. The first one is #4: *“Someone’s in the Supermarket...Buying Safe Food”*



Even though the United States’ food supply is one of the safest in the world, we import 30 billion tons of food from other nations every year. Bacteria and food contaminants don’t respect borders.

The second one is #27: *“Someone’s in the USA saying...Show Me the Power of Healing Foods”* You may have snickered when that wisest of all voices, Mom’s, boasted of the curative powers of homemade chicken soup or nagged you to eat more vegetables. Now, after decades depending on drugs and high-tech surgery, more Americans are heeding the words of dear Old Mom: **FOOD IS STRONG MEDICINE.**

The third one is #57: *“Someone’s Asking...How Can We Stretch Our Food Budget”* Rose radish and granny apple were discussing the price of food and were wondering how they could make ends meet.

The fourth one is #68: *“Someone’s in the Home...Eating Healthy Foods”* Healthy whole foods-you might know that you’re supposed to eat them. But do you really know what they are?

Have you checked these out? They are easy to find on the National website: nafce.org They can be downloaded and printed for free if you are a member.

Note: These Hearth Fires are located on the <https://www.nafce.org/members-page>. Contact your State President or Scott Teeples, 541-891-6456 or sfteeples@outlook.com for the password.



