



National FCE Board Alumni Newsletter

April / May 2025

A Note from Denise

Greetings!

This year's conference will be an extraordinary one! National FCE is combining our annual conference with the ACWW USA Society conference. We will be excited to welcome Magdie de Kock, the

ACWW World President to the conference, which she will attend in full and be a guest speaker. Tish Collins, the Executive Director of the ACWW headquarters office in London, will be in attendance also, as well as being a speaker. I have been attending the USA ACWW/National FCE conference planning meetings, via Zoom, chaired by USA Society President, Bonnie Teeples. I am serving as conference co-chair this year to help lighten Bonnie's multiple duties. The conference is just chock full of workshops and presentations provided by National FCE, National Volunteer Outreach Network, and Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, as well as fun/craft sessions, business meetings, a tour, silent auction, and donations for a women's shelter.



National FCE

Alumni Officers

Chair

Denise Smith

Vice Chair

Martha Crawford

Secretary

Margaret Polen

Treasurer

Susie Martell

To encourage FCE participation, we voted to allow for 10 First Timers Alumni scholarships to be awarded. We have also extended the scholarship application deadline to coincide with the conference registration deadline – June 19th. Scholarship applications and conference registration forms are available on the National FCE website. Please read Peggy Richmond's post conference write up from 2024 in this issue to see what our members take away from attending a national conference. The Board Alumni will once again be holding a Silent Auction, but this year all proceeds will be donated to ACWW to support their various programs. Please consider donating handmade or store bought items for the auction – things that will fit into a suitcase. This will be such a special event, I hope many of you will consider attending!

Denise Smith

National FCE Alumni Chairman

Reminder!

Alumni dues of \$25 for 2024-2025 were due September 1, 2024. If you have not already paid, please submit, using the membership form attached to this issue. Thank you!

Make check payable to: National FCE Board Alumni

Mail to: Susie Martell

8851 N. Oracle Rd. # 179, Oro Valley, AZ 85704

From the Editor



Your articles and photos (yes, we'd love to have photos!) can be sent to my email address: cdsmith2139@gmail.com or to my home address:

433 Sylvan Ave. spc 39, Mountain View, CA 94041 or

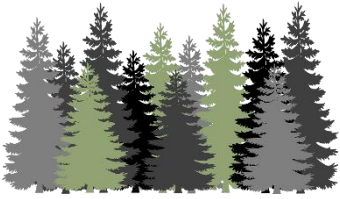
give me a call at: 650 969-3422 - leave a message if I'm not at home. Next newsletter **deadline is October 10, 2025**. We hope to hear from lots of you!

As a reminder, all the NAFCE Alumni Newsletters are available on the www.nafce.org website. Click on **Quick links > Website Menu > Alumni Officers, Forms, Newsletters**.

Hugs, Denise Smith

First Timers Application forms are available on the National FCE website (www.nafce.org) –

Click on Quick Links > Alumni Officers, Forms, Newsletters. Or under the Resource Library tab.



Submitted by Scott Teeples - April 2025

Spring may have finally arrived, but you might have a hard time convincing all of us, especially those of us that live on the east side of the Oregon Cascade mountains. Last Tuesday we had a high of 74 degrees and then yesterday we received 4 inches of new snow. Either way, it is Spring. The daylight is growing longer every day. It's a time for flowers, grass, and, as we all know, weeds to all spring up and grow.

Our roof and ceiling are finally fixed after the huge tree branch came down on it in a 2 foot snow and ice storm. Now we are feeling somewhat whole. The insurance company, the roof repair company, the ceiling repair company, the tree removal company, and the fence repair company have worked well with us even though it has cost us a couple of thousand dollars above the deductible. Oh well, no one was hurt and that is what is most important.

Bonnie and I are still busy doing lots of things in our lives including FCE, ACWW, and of course, Keeper's Corner. I am substituting teaching almost every day and still enjoying it. At the time I am writing this article, I have subbed 104 days and have 29 more scheduled. This is my 51st year of teaching. I have also received a new Calling in my Church as the Branch President of the Yonna Valley Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We are now driving 25 miles to the church building. Bonnie and I are also more than ready for the camping and fishing season. We have a month reserved at one of our favorite lakes.

We have completed the 2025 Oregon/National FCE High School Age CHARTACTERCOUNTS!© Essay Contest. Starting this year, it is a State and National contest. Lots of work has been done about getting the information out to high school age students. This year we had 9 contestants from around the State of Oregon including 2 from Amity High School, 1 from Klamath Union High School, 1 from Mazama High School, 1 from Lost River High School, and 4 from Henley High School. We had 7 judges for the essays. All the essays were outstanding, and it was difficult to judge them 1st through 9th place. The place winners were 1st place (\$500) Luke Smith – Henley High School, 2nd place (\$300) Sarah Redd – Henley High School, and 3rd place (\$200) Isabelle Herring – Lost River High School. Judging was difficult because of the great quality of the essays. There was only 8% difference between 1st and 9th place. We have submitted our 1st place winner, Luke Smith, to the National FCE High School Age Essay contest.

We will be doing the Oregon/National FCE HS Age Essay contest again in 2026. The theme for the contest will be RESPECT. We have started encouraging those that will be High School Age to start getting ready. I have the 2026 brochure ready to be distributed but I have not got the 2026 forms completed. They will be emailed out and posted on the Oregon FCE website www.oregon-fce.org, as soon as they are completed. I will also be putting the forms on the National FCE website www.nafce.org. Please remember that the due date for the application, the quiz, and the essay is March 1, 2026 for Oregon and April 15, 2026 for National FCE. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Right along with the High School Age Essay Contest, Oregon had the 2025 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade Essay and Artwork Contest. The State winner of the 4th Grade Essay and Artwork Contest is being sent to National FCE.

Oregon FCE is well and alive. I'm hearing of various FCE and volunteer activities from across the state of Oregon and across the nation. Lots of lessons are being given and lots of learning is going on. We may be few in numbers, but we are all strong in spirit and dedication to FCE. Oregon FCE is keeping up the great work that it has and will continue to do. The Oregon FCE State Board had a wonderful Spring Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2025. We did lots of planning for the 2025 State Conference. Along with that we did lots of necessary planning for upcoming events and state elections. At the 2025 State Conference we will be electing Group One officers which

consist of a **Vice President for Program, President Elect, Secretary, and Directors from Districts II, IV. (Start serving January 1, 2024).**

The 2025 Oregon FCE Conference is going to be held again at the same location in Springfield. The dates of the 2025 Oregon FCE State Conference are October 6-8, 2025. The theme of the Conference is "Power of the Past... Beacon to the Future." The FCE State Board will again do the task of hosting the Conference. They, along with FCE members, Study Groups, Counties, and Districts will take over that task. It worked very well in 2024. They will use help from all around the state of Oregon. There are lots of assignments and tasks that need to be done and most of them have had volunteers step up for them.

We have selected 5 lessons for the Conference including: Great American Women part 3 by Kerry Mauk; Forgotten Towns in Oregon by Sandie Bolyard & Lynda Nyseth; Spilling the Beans on Beans by Bonnie Teeples & Marian Banes; The Red Cross by Karen Walker; and Prostate Cancer by Scott Teeples. This year all the lessons will be taught in the same room so you can attend all 5 of them. We are also doing a couple of new things in the schedule. The Board meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon so the Board members can attend the activities on Monday morning. We are also doing something new in doing two service projects on Monday morning including making "Comfort Bears" and "Lap Blankets." To help with the cost of the State Conference, we are looking for Conference Sponsors including individuals, Study Groups, Counties, and businesses.

The Oregon FCE Zoom lessons will continue onward this year. Wednesday, April 2, 2025, was our 52nd monthly lesson. They are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. FCE members and Friends of FCE have participated from across the USA. There have been "Guest Presenters" from Oregon, Virginia, West Virginia, Hawaii, Kansas, Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Mississippi. All the Zoom Lessons have been recorded and are available on the Oregon website www.oregon-fce.org. Please let me know if you'd be interested in being a presenter.

The 2025 ACWW-USA/National FCE Conference is going to be held in Erlanger, Kentucky on July 21-24, 2025. It will be different than past national conferences because it will be combined with the Associated Country Women of the World. This year, the National FCE Alumni Association is sponsoring 10 National Conference Scholarships (which pay full registration cost). Additional information about the National Conference can be found on the National FCE website www.nafce.org.

Before I close this report, I want to, as I always do, repeat "Scott's Challenge." My challenge to you is to do all that you can do to "Grow" this organization. This is an extremely difficult thing to do in these tough times, but together we can do it. We, as FCE members, can make a difference by increasing our membership. Every one of you was "Invited" to join this organization. Now it's your turn. Don't do this great organization a disservice by not inviting others to join. Don't let the FCE organization die. You, each of you, can be the salvation of FCE. One last reminder, if we don't do something to help this organization grow, the challenges of "Aging Out," "Burn Out," and an "I don't care attitude" will destroy this organization. Become part of the solution. Don't be a "Nay-Sayer," become a "Yay-Sayer."

If all of us don't start doing these things, we will continue to see the slow, if not quick, decline in FCE membership. If you don't care, do nothing and nothing will happen. Do your part and we can stop the loss of membership and even increase the FCE membership. It all starts with you and me. Let's all make FCE all that it can be. We need to start today! How many of you are willing to accept the challenge I give you today and always?

I am excited about the things that we have done, can do, and will do in FCE. With all of us working together we can make FCE all that it can be. **"It is what you will it to be."**

Election of New Officers in 2025



The positions of Board Alumni Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer will be open for election at our 2025 annual meeting during conference. The current officer's 3-year terms will expire as of December 31, 2025. Even though we, as officers, enjoy serving in our positions, some of us have been at this for a long time! It would be nice to have new members step up to relieve us and to add "new blood" to the committee – something that is always needed to keep our organization vibrant. Please consider serving in one the positions. Elections will take place at the annual Alumni breakfast meeting during our July 2025 conference in Erlanger, KY. The following are the positions and job descriptions:

Chair -

- Preside at all meetings of the Board Alumni.
- Be the official representative of the Board Alumni.
- Make reports to Alumni members annually.
- Make a report to the National FCE as requested.
- Appoint a Newsletter Chair with the approval of Board Alumni Officers.
- Appoint a Bylaws Committee, Budget Committee, & other Committee Chairs with the approval of the Board Alumni Officers.
- Perform all other duties as agreed upon with Board Alumni members & any others as prescribed in these bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order.

Vice Chair -

- Chair the Scholarship Committee.
- Preside at any meeting of the Board Alumni in the absence of the Chair.
- Serve as an aide to the Chair in all assigned duties.

Secretary/Treasurer -

- Keep records of all meetings and distribute minutes within 60 days of said meeting.
- Official minutes of all the national meetings and other pertinent written material shall be deposited in the archives at National FCE Headquarters following the term of each Board Alumni Chairman.
- Receive and keep records of all funds of Board Alumni and deposit in a depository approved by the Alumni Officers.
- Pay authorized expenses upon written order of the Alumni Chairman.
- Serve as Chair of the Budget Committee.
- Make a full report at the annual meeting of Board Alumni.
- Send notice to all Alumni not paying dues at the annual meeting as a reminder.
- Keep a record of all the National FCE Board and those who have paid their current dues.
- Have books reviewed once during each term and at the end of the term.

If you are interested in serving in one of these meaningful and necessary positions, please contact me at cdsmith2139@gmail.com or 808 430-2097 (cell/text). I'm happy to answer any questions.

Denise Smith – NAFCE Alumni Chair

2025 Conference – Erlanger, KY July 21 – 25 Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport



Magdie de Kock
ACWW World President

We are so excited to announce that the 2025 National FCE Conference will be combined with the ACWW USA Society conference and that Magdie de Kock, World President of ACWW, from South Africa, will be in attendance and a guest speaker. Tish Collins, Executive Director of the ACWW London headquarters office will be in attendance, as will be Bonnie Teeples, Trustee and Area President for the USA. There will be business meetings for National FCE and ACWW, workshops, guest speakers, a tour, presentations by various USA Societies, a silent auction, and several luncheons/banquet dinners. The National FCE Board Alumni voted to offer 10 scholarships to First Time attendees in hopes of encouraging members to join us for this exceptional opportunity to meet Magdie de Kock and attend a National FCE conference. Please

help spread the word to your clubs, county, and state organizations that these scholarships are available on the National FCE website.



Peggy Richmond – NAFCE Alumni Scholarship Recipient 2024

There are 3 specific areas that I have been involved in with what I learned at the National FCE Conference in 2024:

1. Membership- As President of the Executive Board of Directors for the Tennessee Central Region, I put NAFCE membership on my agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Central Region held in September. Made Membership forms and information about NAFCE available to all attendees. There were 260 Tennessee Central Region members, agents and judges in attendance covering 28 counties. We reported on the conference and membership in our October 1 Newsletter. We outlined specific benefits of supporting the National organization by becoming a member and introduced the Legacy Fund. We also sent a letter to every County Council President encouraging National Membership. We have announced the Alumni Scholarship for 10 first time new attendees at the 2025 state conference and actively working on that endeavor within the Central Region.
2. Food Security-We spoke at the Annual Meeting in detail of the National and State Project in support of Food Security and reported on the many ways our Region is actively involved in this project with education and action and our goals for the third year of this ongoing project. We also put the new umbrella theme of Food Security in our newsletter for greater exposure. We also are educating our local club in Grundy County by sharing material available about Food Waste, access to quality produce and volunteering at Food Banks, particularly, in my local County. We will be working 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. Many of our counties are involved in the teaching of classes at extension and county FCE special events.
3. FCL - We have shared all the information regarding new to me FCL classes with our State Board and also shared with the Fall FCL training classes where we were the lead teacher in "How to deal with Difficult People" class for 12 members in Leadership Training. We have signed up to teach several classes regarding Food Waste at our Leadership Retreat in the Spring.

I look forward to attending the 2025 Conference and the many opportunities to share in the upcoming year. Thank you for the Alumni Scholarship as a first time attendee in 2024.

Best Regards, *Peggy Richmond*

Two are better than one... for if they fall, one will lift up the other. - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

MEMBER APPRECIATION

Nite Owls FCE collected school supplies for the Family Resource Center in Springfield, TN during their September Meeting.

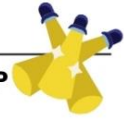


National Association for Family and Community Education



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING LEADERSHIP CHARACTER TRAITS AND BUILDING MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to Our FCE Family!

Dear New Members,

We're thrilled to have you join our vibrant Tennessee Association for Family and Community Education (FCE) community! Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or embarking on this exciting journey for the first time, know that you've found a place where friendships flourish, ideas bloom, and learning never stops.

As you settle into our FCE home, we encourage you to explore our workshops, connect with fellow members, and share your unique talents. Together, we'll continue to make a positive impact within our local communities, Region and State.

Welcome home!

Central Region CVU Report 2024

Total FCE Members Reported: 157
Total Volunteer Hours Reported: 112,000
Total People Reached: 12,562,615
Total Worth of Volunteer Hours
 $112,000 \times 33.49 =$
\$3,750,880

great work!

FCE: COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY

Vinson's Crossroads club in Warren County had their regular meeting Tuesday September 17th. They had 3 guest and a new member! They donated snacks to the Children's Advocacy Center and took Kindness baskets to The Senior Center, Just Friends Office, Star Physical Therapy, and the Physical Therapy Office at the hospital. They are **GETTING INVOLVED** against food insecurity!



Notes from some still snow bound Alumni members

From Andrea Abrahamson ~ Not quite spring here in North Dakota/ Minnesota yet. We just got snow. Not much fun when trying to move.



From Harriet Steenson ~ Don't we wish spring/summer is coming.....snow is forecast for mid-Nebraska tomorrow! Certainly nothing new here.....I'm the only member in my county.



From Carolyn Ropp

A Flutter of Butterflies - Monarchs usually travel alone, but they cluster together in trees to stay warm in their winter grounds. These clusters can number in the tens of thousands of individual butterflies and may become so heavy that they occasionally cause branches to break!

A Charm of Hummingbirds - Hummingbirds are not very social creatures and are often aggressive toward other hummingbirds. They are very territorial and fiercely defend food sources and nests. This ferocity varies by season, being strongest during mating season and weakest during migration.



A Siege of Cranes - The Sandhill crane migration is known for being one of the greatest migrations in North America. The Platte River in Nebraska is a major staging site on their journey with up to 1.25 million cranes stopping there to rest and feed for a few weeks.

A Skulk of Foxes - Foxes are generally solitary creatures, but they are monogamous and raise their young together. The parents take turns going out and hunting for their pup, and pups stay with their parents for about seven months before venturing out on their own.



A few more fun collective animal nouns:

A flamboyance of flamingos

An army of caterpillars

A scurry of squirrels

A gaggle of geese

A descent of woodpeckers

An unkindness of ravens

A committee of vultures

A convocation of eagles

A party of blue jays

A college of cardinals

An ostentation of peacocks

A loveliness of ladybugs



National Association For
Family & Community Education

NATIONAL FCE BOARD ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP FORM-20__

(TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Years Served (optional) _____

National FCE Alumni dues (due September 1st) \$25 per year \$ _____

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Donation

\$ _____

Name & address of person(s) remembered, living or deceased, or those you want to thank or to someone special. A note will be sent to them saying "donation will go to Scholarships for Conference".

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Total \$ _____

All money in the Scholarship Fund will go toward the First Timers Annual Conference Scholarships. If you would like your donation to be in remembrance of or for someone special, please fill out their name and address.

MAKE CHECK TO: NAFCE BOARD ALUMNI

MAIL TO: Susan Martell 8851 N. Oracle Rd. # 179, Oro Valley, AZ 85704

TOTAL OF CHECK: \$ _____

TOTAL OF CASH: \$ _____

ALUMNI MEMBER SIGNATURE