

FaCEs

*The Official Publication of the
Alaska Association
for Family and Community
Education*

June 2024, Issue 1 (2024-1)

from the President

Mabel Quilliam
April 24, 2024

I know why this is called spring. Because the temperatures jump around; when you dress for the morning, you may get too hot in the afternoon. The snow is melting, and I can see the ground, even though there are several water puddles.

The Mat-Su District had a Spring Luncheon at Camp Maranatha that we all enjoyed. The food was very good. The price was very reasonable

The 2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference is also going to be held there, September 23 - 27. Hopefully we will get the information and registration forms out pretty soon. The lodge has rooms with 2 beds and a bathroom; and the bedding is already there. Let all your club members know so maybe this year we will have a really good turnout.

State membership is 101. We all need to think of things to



do in each club that will help us get more people to join. The majority of our members are in their later years, and with several members dying every year our totals are going to keep going down. What makes it even harder is the younger generation have small children plus jobs, which keep them from being able to join.

I would like to know when all the clubs are having their meetings, and what they will be doing.

The Talkeetna Homemakers FCE club, of which I am the President, is working on the quilt that we will raffle off next year. We have a quilt that we will raffle this year. [See below] We will be able to give a \$1500 Scholarship to several students again this year, now all we need is to get their applications.[for the rest of the story see the Mat-Su District report below].

I am looking forward to going to the National FCE Conference in Kentucky on July 24-28, 2024. I've really enjoyed the three Conferences I've been able to attend. There is a lot of information to try to remember, so it's a good thing they give us a USB stick with all the classes and info on it. It makes it nice if you want to refresh your memory to just stick it into your computer.

My term of being President is up this year, but I am willing to run again if you all will have me. It has been a pleasure being President these two years. There is so much more I wish I could do, like visiting all the clubs during their meetings or if they are having something different than their usual meetings.

If I am elected to be President again, I want to thank you in advance for the privilege to serve you another term.

I look forward to seeing you at state conference, and getting to know more people on a closer, more personal level.

Have a great spring & summer, take the time to enjoy the beauty that God created and surrounds us with in this great state of Alaska.

National FCE Mid-Year Zoom Meeting

Barbara Thomas

In March I attended via Zoom the National FCE mid-year meeting. I was pleased that

they were having a mid-year meeting again. When I was president and president elect, we had mid-year meetings in Kansas City and the Phoenix area. One year we went to Washington, D.C. I continued to attend after I was no longer president. I attended with Anita Harry, Sharon Bodenstiener, Arlene Cavanaugh, and Lucille Reese. At the one Lucille and I attended there were about 60 of us and 80% got sick from some sort of food borne illness. Others staying at the hotel also got sick. I think that National FCE stopped having those meetings around 2007 due to the cost and declining membership.

At the meeting, the *Hearth Fire Series* lessons that will be given at the 2024 NAFCE Annual Conference were previewed. They are "What is the American Red Cross?", "Spilling the Beans on Beans", and "What Does Food Security Look Like?". These will be available for Alaska FCE president Mabel Quilliam to download at the National Conference in July. There was a delightful and "educational" presentation on boloney. It was fun, and afterwards I was hungry for a boloney sandwich with mustard on white bread.

FCE and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) three-year focus is on Food Security. I think FCE is in

the second year of this. There will be workshops on Food Security at the National Conference. And we are planning a general session at the 2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference in September. Some topics under Food Security are food waste, food labels, food deserts (not desserts), food banks, disruptions in the food chain and sustainable food sources.



Food Security
NAFCE Three Year Project
fce FLASH
With comments by your Editor

The topic of the three-year project that all states will work on is Food Security. "Food is vital to survival."

"What happens when droughts and/or flooding continues globally? Are we prepared? What can we do? How can we affect public policy to put rules/laws in place to help? Would our older members be willing to help with teaching preserving foods, unique ways to make foods stretch?"

Comments: We can begin in a small way, individually, locally.

I used to think that most Alaskans were prepared for food emergencies with a supply of shelf safe food on hand. But, alas, I discovered that several friends didn't have enough food on hand to last much more than a day or two. A 3-day supply is suggested for families Outside, 7-days for Alaskan families. Do you have a personal emergency food supply? Would you be willing to share it?

Do you shop at your local Farmer's Market or other local fresh produce place? support local agriculture in other ways?

Do you garden? preserve fish, vegetables, or fruit?

How do you prevent food waste? keep food safe?

Do you support your local food bank?



Secretary's Report
TJ Barnes
April 24, 2024

A copy of these minutes to be sent to Rieta Walker for publication in *FaCEs* Newsletter.



Treasurer's Report

Jill Martinson

April 24, 2024

I have sent in 3 batches of membership forms, the last going out yesterday. Our net for membership is \$917.50. Three districts have paid the state dues. I did email the one that hasn't paid twice but did not receive a response.

I paid to have copies made of the first batch of membership forms because it was large and my printer wasn't working well. And I paid for mailing it and for stamps.

If we are going to be able to continue paying for a delegate to go to the NAFCE annual meeting and for officer scholarships, we need to figure out a way to bring in some money. The money will be gone in no time otherwise. Any ideas?

April 26 -Addition

I just wanted to say that I have neglected to really study up on all the standing rules so I decided to read them, at least the ones that affect my job as treasurer. And I realized for one thing, I misunderstood how the conference development fund works. That being said, do we have a record of how much money

was made at the conference by the special raffle and donations and how much was the ways and means so I can make sure it is documented properly. I just want to be sure I'm doing my job properly.

Thanks so much!

[Editor's comment: Records of these income items need to be kept separately.]

See the Treasurer's accounting below.



Historian's Report

Mary Hensel

April 24, 2024

Snow is gradually melting away with rising temps and occasional sunshine. Hopefully our summer will be less moist than the last two. One benefit of rainy summers is less fire danger!

Anchorage District lost two more members since our annual conference at North Star Bible Camp last September. In November, Regina Charlton, age 86, died after a long battle with cancer. Helen Student passed away at the age of 96 in January 2024. They were both long time Alaskans and members of FCE for decades.

I have a conflict at meeting time so will be unable to zoom in.

Mary Hensel
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 Anchorage, AK 99516

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FaCEs/Editor's Report
 Rieta Walker

I am the chair or coordinator of the Newsletter Committee. Any of you may be members by submitting items (subject to editing, of course) for publication in *FaCEs*.

Submissions might be items of general interest or a report about a club activity. An example is the item I wrote about the Retreat at Kenai. See below.



**Alaska FCE Membership Report
 2024 Membership by District by Club**

As of April 24, 2024
 Barbara Thomas

<u>State</u>			
Individual		51	
Senior		32	
Family	9	= 18	
Total			101

<u>Anchorage District</u>			
Anchorage			
Individual		3	
Seniors		9	
Total			12

<u>Homer District</u>			
Homer			
Individual			3
Seniors			2
Family	1	=	2
Total			7

<u>Mat-Su District</u>			
Lazy River			
Individual			6
Seniors			2
Family	6	=	12
Total			20

She-Mon-Sun			
Individual			6
Seniors			4
Total			10

Talkeetna			
Individual			2
Seniors			3
Total			5

Wasilla			
Individual			7
Seniors			3
Total			10

Mat-Su District Total **45**

<u>Northern District</u>			
17 Mile			
Individual			16
Seniors			9
Family	2	=	4
Total			29

Tok-A-Tan			
Individual			4
Northern District	Total		33

<u>Greater Alaska</u>			
Individual			4

Coming Soon!
New Revised Handbook
Mabel Quilliam
Alaska FCE President
May 20, 2024

In the next week or two, I will be emailing a copy of the new Alaska FCE Handbook to the president of each club. Presidents may then give copies or email a copy to their members.

Thank you to all who worked on this revised new handbook. A special thanks to Bonnie Dinkel for alerting us to the fact that the entire handbook needed revision and for her work on it.



Our Home ... Heart of the Family
Invitation to the 2024 State Conference
Barbara Thomas

Mat-Su District and the 17-Mile club invite you to attend the 74th Alaska FCE Annual Conference at Camp Maranatha in Big Lake. (19780 W Camp Drive) The dates are Monday evening, September 23,

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through Friday, September 27, after breakfast.

The theme for the Conference is "Our Home...Heart of the Family". The cost is estimated to be \$383. The accommodations are rooms that include two beds and a bathroom. Linens and bedding are provided.

Heart of FCE

"[Homer FCE is]so happy that our Sandy Garity was been named the Heart of FCE award winner this year. She truly is a hardworking grass roots member of FCE and exemplifies the person the award was meant to honor. We are very proud of her and appreciate her contributions to our club." Rosie Burgess in Homer FCE District report.



Sandy Garity, Homer FCE Vice-President, manages our Raise-a-Reader® project by collecting supplemental materials from other organizations and educating them about the project, assembling packets and taking them to the hospital to be distributed to new parents.

Sandy enthusiastically presents *Hearth Fire Series* lessons; for 10 years she has faithfully attended FCE meetings and participated in fund raising.

Sandy volunteers with Hospice of Homer, Homer Thrift, Haven House, and is on the board of the League of Women Voters of Alaska.

Grandmother Sandy is the home-keeper for her family. She's a member of the Homer Hiking Group.

Mabel Quilliam first came to the Talkeetna Homemakers FCE in 2000. She became a member in 2008 and has been their president since 2008. She is also secretary of the Sunshine Community Health Clinic Board; a member of Talkeetna CERT (Community Emergency Response Team); and a member of the Talkeetna Fire Auxiliary. She picks up food for Upper Susitna Food Pantry twice a week and works on Fridays to distribute food.

Mabel was elected president of Alaska FCE in 2022 at the annual business meeting and is up for reelection this year. I think she is a good candidate for the 2024 Heart of FCE.

Nominated by Marge Thompson, Talkeetna club treasurer

Bonnie Shurtleff has been a member of FCE for 20 years. She has been club president, secretary/treasurer of Willow She Mon Sun for at least 10 years. Secretary for Alaska FCE and Mat-Su district. She works behind the scenes doing important paper work including the gaming permit for Mat-Su district for the past several years. Volunteered as secretary/treasurer for the Houston HS booster club, was an active volunteer at Willow Elementary and the community schools after school programs. Served on the Willow library board, volunteered at Alaska

State Fair. She was awarded "The Good Neighbor Gold Pan Award" by community members.

Nominated by Kathleen Huston



CES Update

Julie Cascio

April 24, 2024

Food safety continues to be a high focus in Alaska for Cooperative Extension Service Health, Home and Family Development. This spring, Sarah Lewis offered food preservation classes in Juneau and Cordova and co-taught the Produce Safety Grower Training. Leslie Shallcross offered food preservation in Fairbanks. Julie Cascio offered canning classes in April throughout Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula. This year she has done four Certified Food Protection Manager classes which provided 66 students the opportunity to gain the certificate.

For healthy living, Julie has been utilizing information from AgrAbility to assist gardeners with adaptive techniques for arthritis, back and other issues. This teaching goes through ergonomic tools, ways to perform gardening tasks, to prepare for these tasks with stretches and exercises. This has also turned into a promotion for Strong

Women/Strong People/Strong Bones programs. Julie and Leslie have become Ambassadors for this program so are training new leaders.

SNAP-ed and EFNEP nutrition educators are located in various areas of the state.

Art Nash continues sharing information on preparing for emergencies and building a root cellar.

Julie Cascio
Health, Home and Family Development
Matanuska-Susitna/Copper River District
Cooperative Extension Service
University of Alaska Fairbanks
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Palmer, Alaska 99645
Office: (907) 745-3677

The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

We acknowledge the Alaska Native nations upon whose ancestral lands our campuses reside. In Fairbanks, our Troth Yeddha' Campus is located on the ancestral lands of the Dena people of the lower Tanana River.

Proposed Change to Bylaws

Notice is hereby given that a proposal to make a change to the Bylaws will be made at the 2024 Alaska FCE Annual Business Meeting. The proposal is to delete:

Article IX-Standing Committees
Section 5: State Conference Scholarship Committee.



Exploring the Magic of Knowledge

2023 Alaska FCE Annual Conference Evaluations

Sue Selk, Vice President
(907)232-9583

The 2023 Alaska FCE Annual Conference was held on September 18-23, 2023, at North Star Bible Camp at Willow, Alaska.

After collecting the "data" and reading through all the evaluation sheets turned in by attendees at the 2023 annual conference, I conclude that our FCE members have enjoyed another wonderful conference experience, gathering together with friends, old and new, from across the state, for a time of learning, sharing, visiting, encouraging, stretching, and relaxing in the beautiful Alaskan setting at North Star Bible Camp in Hatcher Pass, Alaska! Most ratings given for the classes, instructors, location, and overall impressions were "excellent" or "good", and the comments were generally positive and helpful. I would have liked to see more suggestions for future classes or program ideas on the evaluation forms, but it's never too late to offer them to your club leaders

to bring to those planning future conferences. There are many talented and knowledgeable people around this state, even in our own ranks, that can be invited to present at conferences, and it's so great to learn new things every year to take back and share with our clubs, families, and communities! I offer a big Thank You to all the wonderful 2023 presenters, and I hope more members will be able to attend state conference in 2024!

Most evaluations were positive about the location, food, and facilities at North Star, however, a growing number of ladies feel that "camp life" is getting a bit too "rough" for some old timers and would like to try somewhere new. As we look forward to the upcoming 2024 conference, this year's planners have found a new location to try, still centrally located in the state, and they are hoping all members will be excited to come enjoy the brand new "hotel-like" lodge at Camp Maranatha in Big Lake, Alaska, and the reported excellent food served there!

2023 attendees reported learning much valuable information in the classes and general sessions offered, and enjoying the fun craft opportunities too. They especially appreciated the interesting and helpful knowledge shared so expertly by our Alaska Cooperative Extension Service agents, Julie Cascio, Leslie Shallcross, and others, and by several of our own FCE club members too. All did a fine job presenting information, leading classes, teaching crafts, and we even had an interesting "field

trip" to the amazing history museum down in Willow! Also enjoyed together were the educational annual meeting, a lovely memorial service, the always entertaining group photo shoot, fun evening games, the usual white elephant sale, and a delicious Thursday banquet meal!

I have written up all the ratings, comments, and suggestions "verbatim" in my full report, which I mailed copies of to our state officers and district presidents, and I am happy to send to anyone else interested. Thank you to all who contributed your evaluations of the 2023 Conference, and I look forward to seeing you ALL again at our 2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference in Big Lake next September for another excellent time together!



Retreat XXXVII
Old Stories Matter
Rieta Walker

Fifteen women attended Retreat XXXVII. Sena Biruchenko, Lina Lopez, and Theresa McNeal came for the first time.

We had 4 classes beginning on Friday evening with Margaret Dubber leading two crafts: decorating velvet medallions with glitzy jewelry pieces and card making.

On Saturday Rosie asked us some interesting questions ranging from "What is your favorite color?" to "Would you rather interview one of your ancestors or one of your future descendants?" We learned more about each other as we listened to the answers.

Later volunteers presented a readers theater performance of *Great American Women, you've probably never heard of* (written and developed by Kerry Mauk for Oregon FCE in 2022). Baba Wawa (Rieta Walker) interviewed these women from different time periods:

- Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) - Kathy Huston
- Mary Walker, MD (1832 - 1919) - Bonnie Shurtleff
- Stagecoach Mary Fields (1832 - 1914) - Sue Reed
- Alice Paul (1885 - 1977) - Jill Martinson
- Barbara McClintock (1902 -) - TJ Barnes
- Rachel Carson (1907 - 1964) - Marleyne Hunter
- Peggy Whitson (1960 -) Sena Biruchenko

If you still haven't heard of these women, ask one of us.

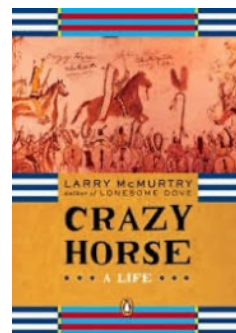
Everyone was invited to tell us about a person of interest to them.

Rosie began by telling us about Gudrid Thornbjarnardottir, Far Traveler, who was born in Iceland (980-1060). Rosie used a map to show us Gudrid's trips across the Atlantic and to Rome. Rosie held up the book *The Far Traveler, Voyages of a Viking Woman*.



Bonnie Shurtleff had a display of clippings, photos, and cards to illustrate her talk about her grandmother, Florence Aloysius Leahy O'Neil, mother of 12, and the impact she had/has on today.

Margaret Dubber's father Albert Earl Jennings, Jr., began working in a lead and zinc mine when he was only 13. He became a skilled powder monkey. Alas, he died young when Margaret was 11.



Crazy Horse, Oglala Lakota, is one of Rieta Walker's heroes not because he was a great warrior, but for the care he had for his people and the sacrifice he made for them.

Not everyone dressed up for the noon tea, but it was fun to see "costumes" and kuspuks.

Attendees took part in the Chinese auction (gift exchange) and the in-house ways-and-means and kuspuk auction.

Sue won the first and only Farkle game she ever played; Rieta observed and thinks she might be able to learn the rules.

Some, especially Stephanie Harry, enjoyed the hot tub at the Quality Inn.

At the evaluation meeting, the biggest request was for scheduled nap time. Best of all Mat-Su members recognized the work that goes into hosting a Retreat and volunteered to be in charge of food for the next Retreat.

Invitation to Oregon FCE Zoom Lessons

Scott Teeples, Oregon FCE President
Edited by Rieta Walker

Scott Teeples, Oregon FCE President, invites everyone to join in the Oregon FCE ZOOM lessons. Lessons are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Pacific Time and last about an hour.

The lessons were started because of the COVID-19 shut down. Presenters and attendees have been from everywhere in the USA. All 39 lessons have been recorded on YouTube and the links are available at www.oregon-fce.org.

This is also a call for presenters. You do not have to be a professional, just like to teach and present lessons. The presenter chooses the topic. Scott takes care of all the ZOOM set up and sending out invitations. If you would like to be a presenter, contact Scott at cell # 541-891-6456 or sfteepels@outlook.com.



District Reports

Anchorage

Nancy Heckart, President
April 24, 2024

Anchorage members took a short break after the 2023 Alaska FCE Annual Conference. In October we resumed our fleece blanket project for Hope Center which provides a safe sleeping area for homeless women. We have at least one blanket workshop a month. We have donated 31 fleece blankets and 7 fleece scarves since September. Hope Center provides many programs that will help their clients develop skills that they will need to enter the work force and live on their own.

By November our snowbirds had flown south, Anchorage had received more snow than we wanted, and it was time to decide if we wanted to sell Rondy buttons. This has been our main fund raiser for at least 40 years. We decided we would sell 6 hours on Fridays from noon to 6:00 P.M. at Carrs on the south end of town. We had only 5 workers so that meant we were committed to work a 3 hour shift each Friday. We sold during 3 weeks in December and from the last week of January through February 23. We survived, had a good time selling buttons and our FCE books, and made some money for our service projects.

At our last meeting we learned from a couple who are counselors at Royal Kids Camp which provides a summer camp for kids in foster care. I was really impressed with the experiences provided for these children and how well the program is developed to meet the needs of the children.

We are looking forward to having everyone back in town. We hope to plan some outings, make some more blankets, and pick the groups or programs we want to support this year.

Having read Rosie's report, I think we need to take a look at state conference and see if we could even out the workload by breaking up some of the responsibilities, etc. Maybe a session at conference where we could brain storm a little for ideas and thoughts.

Homer

Rosie Burgess, President

April 24, 2024

After the flurry of tasks following the 2023 Alaska FCE Conference, Homer FCE resumed its normal club and district activities.

Rieta Walker and Anita and Stephanie Harry were all busy moving this fall, members traveled Outside and we have a snowbird in the group so club meetings were limited thru the winter months.

In October we met for our membership meeting. We are down to 7 members. We do need to have some type of membership drive. Any suggestions?

We discussed the possibility of having a Retreat in April 2024. Everything came together and indeed we were able to have our Retreat with the theme being, 'Old Time Stories Matter'.

Several 'Old Time' stories were shared. We learned about Crazy Horse and his steadfast values and Bonnie Shurtleff's grandmother, Florence Aloysius Leahy O'Neil, whose life impacted the world. Her many descendants' have been, doctors, lawyers, engineers, tradesmen, nurses, pilots, jailbirds, and everything in between. Margaret Dubber told great stories of her dad, Alfred Earl Jennings Jr.'s, life as a lead and zinc miner in Oklahoma. She shared memories of the hardships they endured just trying to survive along with the

good times shared while doing it. I told about Gudrid Thornjbarndottir, a Viking woman born in Iceland around 980. She earned her name "the Far Traveler" by crossing the North Atlantic eight times on a Viking long boat to 'Vinland' in present day eastern Canada. She also journeyed to Rome mostly by foot. On one journey, she and her husband stayed in Vinland for three years where she gave birth to her son, Snorri, the first European born in North America.

Most of what is known about her was learned through the verbal Sagas of the Norse backed up by archeological digs in Iceland and Canada.

We had a fun question and answer session where everyone had the chance to tell their own stories. Rieta Walker shared the Oregon State FCE zoom meeting where we met 7 "Amazing Women you have never heard of". Several members portrayed these women, and we all had a fun time getting to know them. Ask Sue Reed about her new nickname, "Dead Eye Sue". She did an amazing job of portraying a lady stagecoach driver.

Special crafts, organized by Margaret Dubber, were offered. Retreat was very fun and relaxing. It's a great way to get to know each other better especially when there are new members and guests in attendance. We encourage you all to come to the next one.

Rieta Walker is suggesting places where our two treasures, the

autographed Benny Benson flag and the ivory gavel should be placed for permanent display. Input is requested.

A Christmas dinner party was held at Vita's restaurant in December. Six members enjoyed Thai or Chinese food and a greeting card exchange.

Sandy Garity continues presenting the *Hearth Fire Series* lessons to us. "Ovarian Cancer, the Silent Killer" was the most recent lesson.

We have assembled 100 more Raise-a-Reader® packets for the South Peninsula Hospital. Sandy Garity also wrote to the head of our public library to explain the program. They have set aside some books for us.

Marcia Lowe donated a gallon of old jewelry to Margaret Dubber to be used for crafts at Retreat.

We are so happy that our Sandy Garity was been named the Heart of FCE award winner this year. She truly is a hardworking grass roots member of FCE and exemplifies the person the award was meant to honor. We are very proud of her and appreciate her contributions to our club.

Looking ahead to Conference 2025 and at the new membership lists, I see that Homer and Anchorage Districts total membership is 19 where as the combined membership of Northern and Mat-Su Districts is 89. Seeing this, it doesn't seem equitable that conference duties are teamed up the way they are now. I would like to see the

duties for producing conference split differently. I am open to suggestions. Could each district be assigned specific duties for each conference or team up Districts according to membership? As it is right now, I am not sure 2025 Conference can happen.

Mat-Su District

Barbara Thomas, President
April 24, 2024

It is finally Spring here in Mat-Su. We had our annual Spring Luncheon on April 17, at Camp Maranatha in Big Lake. Camp Maranatha is where we are having the 2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference, so it was a good opportunity to check out the facilities and the food. The food, which we know is important to our group, and the staff got "two thumbs up." The theme for the luncheon was "Second Hand Rose." We enjoyed a second-hand fashion show and a second-hand white elephant sale.

We will be working on our State Fair Demonstration schedule and sending out recruitment letters at the end of April. The Fair dates are Friday, August 16, through Monday, Labor Day, September 2. The Fair will be closed on the two Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The theme for the 2024 Fair is "Enjoy the Ride". When you are at the Fair come by the Hoskin's building to see us and take in a demonstration. We will also be sponsoring, along with Julie Cascio and CES, the Homemade Pie Contest on Sunday,

August 25. This year the category for the pie is nuts. That is the pie filing must include nuts; for example, a Pecan Pie.

Mat-Su FCE is doing well and even added a few new members. Here are some highlights from our 2023 annual report. Our total volunteer hours were 8,013, which is up by 500 hours from 2022. Our State Fair demonstrations and Pie Contest reached 2,100 people. The illustrations for our new Raise-a-Reader® book, *Mama Bear the Reader and the Alaska Alphabet* have been completed. The next steps are to get estimates for the cost of printing, fundraising and applying for grants.

Our Talkeetna club was able to give three scholarships to graduating seniors totaling \$4,500 from the proceeds of their annual quilt raffle. The Mt McKinley Princess Lodge displayed the quilt, sold raffle tickets, and received donations in place of buying tickets. In the end Mt McKinley Princess Lodge gave a donation matching the ticket sales and donations.

Northern District

Barbara Thoma, 17-Mile Member
April 24, 2024

Spring has finally sprung! The Nenana Tripod has gone out so we better get ready for summer. We have been having work parties each Thursday during the winter.

We have been working on burp bibs for our Raise-a-Reader® Kits. We have distributed over 225 kits. We have been fortunate to be able

to get books from our local Literacy Council Book Store and various thrift stores. We can then sanitize them for the kits. We use the extra flannel from cutting out the bibs to make strip quilts for Stevies Place and bazaars.

We have been asked to make Alaska themed potholders for Creamers Wildlife Center. We make an ulu shape along with square and round potholders. We also have a member painting switch plates and wooden Eskimo dolls to sell at bazaars.

We had a fun Christmas potluck and a new way to do Chinese auction.

We wrote over 1500 Christmas cards for our local USO and baked lots of cookies for them at Christmas. Cookies (44 dozen) were also baked and donated to the 4-H Leaders Conference held in Fairbanks in March.

We also had interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, such as a speaker from the Alzheimer's group, who told us what we should be doing to delay any problems - Do puzzles or games each day (Farkle, Yahtzee, Scrabble and more). Also doing something each day with your non-dominate hand, like brushing your teeth, to build up more brain pathways! Then she tested each of us for a baseline.

We are planning a garage sale for June along with the North Pole Senior Center. And, of course, we have been working on ways and means, banquet centerpieces, and treats for the bags and figuring out how to get everyone to the

2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference.

Quilt Raffle
Mabel Quilliam
Spring 2024

The Talkeetna Homemakers FCE club is raffling the quilt pictured. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a book of 10 for \$20. If anyone would be interested in buying some tickets just send me an email (mmquilliam@yahoo.com) or phone call at (907) 232-4753. The club will be able to give a \$1500 Scholarship to several students again this year, now all we need is to get their applications.



Alaska Association for Family and Community Education

2024 Spring Board Meeting, April 24, 2024

Minutes

Call to Order-10:15am

Pledge of Allegiance-recited by all

Alaska Homemaker's Creed*-read by Jill Martinson

Roll Call, TJ Barnes, Secretary: Present parties included President Mabel Quilliam, Vice President Sue Selk, Secretary TJ Barnes, Treasurer Jill Martinson, Membership Coordinator/Mat-Su Valley District President Barbara Thomas, Finance/Budget/Anchorage District President Nancy Heckart, CES Agent Julie Cascio, Newsletter *FaCEs* Editor Rieta Walker, Homer District President Rosie Burgess, Northern District Representative Barbara Thoma, and Homer members Marcia Lowe and Anita Harry.

Approval of the Agenda-All approved with the addition of a Special Committees Report to be presented by Rieta Walker before moving on to Unfinished Business.

Minutes-motion to accept the minutes as printed in the November edition of *FaCEs* made by Rosie Burgess, seconded by Jill Martinson. Motion passed and minutes will stand as printed.

Officer Reports: All reports are to be sent to Secretary TJ Barnes, President Mabel Quilliam and to *FaCEs* Editor Rieta Walker by May 10.

President, Mabel Quilliam-report read

Vice President, Sue Selk-report read

Secretary, TJ Barnes-no report at this time. A copy of these minutes to be sent to Rieta Walker for publication in *FaCEs* newsletter.

Treasurer, Jill Martinson-report read and audit of 2023 books was completed on March 26, 2024, by TJ Barnes and Barbara Thomas. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for audit made by Barbara Thomas and seconded by Nancy Heckart. Motion passed.

Historian, Mary Hensel-not present, however Rieta Walker read a report on Mary's behalf, and Nancy Heckart also contributed.

District President Reports:

Anchorage, Nancy Heckart-Report read.

Homer, Rosie Burgess-Report read.

Mat-Su, Barbara Thomas-Report read.

Northern, Helen Bernstein-not present, no report received by Rieta Walker for *FaCEs*. Barbara Thoma was muted so could not give a report.

Correspondence & Announcements: Nothing at this time.

Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Update, Julie Cascio, Health, Home and Family Development (HHFD) Agent-Discussion, in addition to the report being printed in the newsletter, included whether a new agent for the Kenai Peninsula is being hired. The short answer is that there is not adequate funding for an agent to be hired at this time. Sue Selk added that the comments from the FCE Annual Conference in 2023 were appreciative of all the contributions CES makes to our organization.

Standing Committee Reports:

FaCEs Editor, Rieta Walker-All members are welcome to make a submission for an article to be printed in *FaCEs*. Please share the May 10, 2024, deadline for submissions with club members.

Finance & Budget, Nancy Heckart-report given and will be sent to Rieta Walker for *FaCEs*.

Membership, Barbara Thomas-report given and will be published in the newsletter. There have been five new memberships received since the report was originally written so the report will be updated.

Nominating Committee, Chair Bonnie Shurtleff-not present, no report given. Rieta Walker volunteered to represent Homer District on the Nominating Committee. It would be helpful to have a volunteer from Northern District and Anchorage District.

Scholarship-Mabel asked if we need a Scholarship Committee and Rieta Walker agreed that it is not needed. She also pointed out several Standing Committee Chairs have been serving past their appointments, namely Membership which ended in 2020, Finance/Budget which ended in 2022 and *FaCEs* Newsletter Editor which also ended in 2022. Discussion included new committee appointments by the Alaska FCE President which in the past has taken place at the Annual Conference.

Special Committee Report, Rieta Walker-AK Child & Family Services, strongly associated with the Alaska state flag creator Benny Benson, expressed that they would be honored to accept our autographed Alaska state flag and give it a permanent home. Rieta Walker motioned to donate the flag to AK Child & Family Services, and Rosie Burgess seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Nancy Heckart was asked if the Anchorage District would be willing to present the flag to them at their Alaska Flag Day services July 9, 2024. Nancy agreed.

Unfinished Business-none at this time.

New Business:

2024 Alaska FCE Annual Conference, Barbara Thomas: The official invitation was read. There are two proposed cover art submissions, one designed by Ellie Herrera and sent in by Marleyne Hunter in Northern District, one from TJ Barnes in Mat-Su District. The brochure will be sent out in July. Homer District volunteered to be responsible for Fun Night, and Anchorage volunteered for Get Acquainted Night activities. Discussion included perhaps redistributing which districts will work together to present the annual conference and we should have a brainstorming session at 2024 conference to further discuss the matter of how conference duties are divided and to begin planning the 2025 Annual Conference.

Changing of Standing Rule #4, Barbara Thomas: An e-mail was sent and read by Barbara proposing a change to Standing Rule #4 which she so moved to accept and Rosie Burgess seconded. Motion passed. The new wording of Standing Rule #4 is now "Alaska FCE shall pay an amount based on available funds as determined during the annual budget process for the registration fees, not including class fees and travel, for each officer and the *FaCEs* Editor to attend the Annual Conference."

Discussion of the different committees and who will be on them-Mabel Quilliam: there was discussion regarding special committees and when they should be appointed. This brought up the question of the revised handbook; Mabel said she's still working on it.

The next Alaska FCE business meeting will take place at the Annual Conference in September.

Adjourned: 12:14pm

TammyJean Barnes, Secretary

* written by Lula (Mrs. Chester) Sandvik (died 1989) Butte Homemakers, Palmer, Alaska

2024 Election

Article V, Section 3,A,1 Even Numbered Year Elections. President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years.

The election is to take place at the annual meeting at the annual conference in September.

Alaska FCE Treasurer's Report

April 24, 2024

Jill Martinson, Alaska FCE Treasurer

Bank balance as of October 24, 2023		\$9409.79
Income:	Membership	\$4022.00
	Council State dues	150.00
	Donation to NAFCE	25.94
	Books	<u>+85.00</u>
	Total income	\$4282.94
Balance plus Income		\$13692.73
Expenses:	NAFCE	\$3104.50
Membership		
	NAFCE Donation	25.94
	Miscellaneous	44.15
	Total expenses	<u>\$3174.59</u>
Final Balance		\$10518.14
Dedicated Funds		
	State Scholarship fund	\$1500.00
	National Delegate Fund	\$3500.00
	State Conference Development Fund	<u>+\$1500.00</u>
	Total Dedicated funds	\$6500.00
Working budget		\$4018.14

