

Fellow FCE Members,

During the 1950's when my brothers were out in the woods and my mother wanted them to come to the house, she would stand at the back door and holler for them to come. They might or they might not hear her. (So they said.)

In 1978 we built a home in the middle of 55 acres of woods. Our three boys were 8, 11 and 13. They spent many hours in the woods doing the things boys do – hunting with their dad, building huts, looking for mushrooms, roasting hotdogs and who knows what else. (I probably do not want to know.) When they were needed at the house, we would ring a dinner bell which we had installed by our deck. A long ringing meant to come right away.

This summer while our now 42 year old son and 15 year old grandson were picking wild black raspberries in our woods, I called them by cell phone when I had a message for them.

What a difference time has made in our communication methods. And these differences equate to generational differences of FCE members. *Traditionalists* are the generation born between 1922 and 1945. For years these FCE members' lives were defined by world wars and conflicts. They learned to value steady employment and expected their employer or organization to guarantee their success. *Traditionalists* are willing to pay their dues and are loyal to their employer and affiliations.

Baby Boomers, born from 1946 to 1964, can't remember the war years and the hardships they brought. They expect cheap and easy travel, relative peace and mass communication. They expect the workplace and organizations to be loyal to them.

Generation X'ers, born between 1964 and 1980, are characterized as cynical and skeptical as they witness downsizing of companies and massive scandal in many government, business and religious entities. Some may have found it necessary to take a minimum wage job even though they have college degrees.

Now we come to the current generation – *Generation Y* or the Instant Everything Generation. Generation Y members are 13 to 27 years old and value small families, having material things or jobs readily available to them. They expect the instant communication that cell phones, e-mail, and text messaging allows. They like change and flexibility; and can change jobs quickly. They accept diversity better than most people. Voting for a female or a non-white person for President is not a big issue for this generation.

Having the four generations in the same group can be challenging for meeting planners, whether on a national, state or county level. One generation is not better than another - we simply have different needs. FCE members need to understand everyone's generational identity. To attract and retain younger members, FCE needs to realize those differences.

We need to offer meetings to appeal to every generation with lectures, visual presentations with overheads, VCR tapes and PowerPoint presentations.

It is important to offer interactive workshops where everyone's ideas are valued and use paper and on-line meeting registration methods. We can recognize member's worthy results while telling just a few old stories at the awards event; offer new and usable information in workshops and have the meeting at a facility with wireless Internet connections. These all make the time spent at meetings worthwhile with very little "wasted" time.

Most FCE members are Traditionalists or Baby Boomers. We need to understand how those members are different from Generation X and Generation Y members in order to work well together. We must respect each other and learn to accept change – in our family structures, in the workplace, in our organizations and in society in general. We can use that understanding to improve ourselves, to attract new members and to work with rather than against each other for the betterment of FCE. As we enter a new year, let's join together to understand and respect all FCE members.

I wonder what will identify the next generation...

Your National FCE President,
Carolyn Ropp

New Publications

Two new educational publications were introduced at the 2007 Conference in Omaha.

Hearthfire #42 "Kids Gone Wild?? It's Our Own Fault". Music does affect all of us and it is important that our kids know it. This Hearthfire encourages us to use music to talk to our kids. A great Hearthfire to share with parents.

The other publication was "Buzzee and the Internet Caper". Great for starting conversation with children about internet use.

Order these from National FCE Headquarters.

Fund FCE Projects through Community Foundations

Looking for a way to fund your local FCE project? Many local foundations fund projects for non profit and charitable organizations. Your FCE project could be funded by these sources. Try finding a local or area foundation that makes a fit with your project. To find local or area foundations in your state, search on the internet – Community foundations in _____ (your state). This will bring up a list. If you do not have internet access you can go to a public library and they would help you.

There will be instructions on filling out paper work and being accountable for the project. You will need a letter showing your association is a 501 (c) 3 and if you are under the National umbrella you will need a letter from National FCE.

The county FCE in Yuma, Arizona has explored ways to fund projects through the local Yuma Community Foundation. There is a cost to attend workshops sponsored by the foundation. The foundation recently sponsored a workshop hosted by the Wallace Foundation. This foundation funds advocacy projects. Advocacy contains an education component, so that the group being targeted has knowledge of what you are trying to accomplish with your organization. Advocacy is not lobbying. Laws get enacted or not, changes are made, partnerships are formed through this. The members will be educating themselves about advocacy.

Through the foundation they became aware of the Arizona Alliance of Non-Profits and after being proposed at the state meeting, AZ FCE joined this group. That gives each member and their counties the opportunities to attend all workshops and opens the door to networking, alliance making, and funding. Most states will have a similar alliance or organized group for non profits.

OFFICES FOR NOMINATION

The following National FCE officers to be elected at the Annual Conference Business Meeting in Burlington, VT are:

- President-Elect (1 year term)
- Vice President for Public Policy (3 year term)
- Secretary (3 year term)
- Central Region Public Policy Coordinator (3 year term)
- Eastern Region Program Coordinator (2 year term)
- Southern Region Program Coordinator (3 year term)
- Western Region Public Policy Coordinator (3 year term)
- Young Families Coordinator (1 year term)

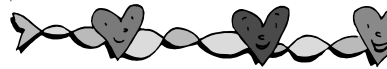
Each state has FCE members qualified to serve on the National Board. The Nominating Committee looks forward to receiving nominations from qualified individuals in each state. If you or your state has someone to be nominated, please refer to Article V, Officers, Elections and Duties in the 2007 Handbook beginning on page 5-6. Contact National FCE Headquarters or Chairman Paige Measner for more information.

CELEBRATING WOMEN AT BURLINGTON

The 2008 Conference Theme is FCE Celebrates Women. We want to focus on women in many aspects of the conference. Some of the speakers are strong motivators and advocates for women's issues. An author from Vermont will tell how she gets storylines, writes and then rewrites her books. An educational professional will focus on the importance of early childhood education. Another life sized FCE Friend will make an appearance, too.

For FCE Night attendees will be bussed to an off site event at ECHO, Vermont's lake aquarium and science center, located on the Burlington Waterfront. Pizzas, salad and cookies will be the informal meal. The FCE Benefit entertainment will be a local belly dancing group (nothing risqué). A breakout workshop will expand on the physical and mental benefits of massage.

More will be printed in the next TODAY about the Conference.



THE MOTHER OF AMERICAN VALENTINE CARDS

When you send or receive valentines, think of the designer of it all -

Miss Esther Howland from Massachusetts.

She sent the first Valentine card. Esther, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, received her first English valentine in 1847.

Fascinated, she imported perforated paper lace and floral decorations from England and began taking orders for valentines. The demand for valentines was more than she could make by herself, so Esther recruited friends to help make the lace and ribbon creations. The assembly operation that began in her home eventually led to a thriving business grossing \$100,000 annually.

The period from 1840 to 1860 is considered the golden age for artistic, sentimental valentines. The earliest paper lace developed in England was copied from handmade real lace, originally embossed by hand and later pressed by machinery. Esther made several innovations in valentine card design. One was the small brightly colored wafer of paper placed to give contrast under the white paper lace; another was the built-up shadow box that became popular in the latter part of her career.

Esther was an American success story. She sold her business and retired in 1881.



MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

Notice the color of a person's eyes as you firmly shake hands.

Why it works: You will gain strong eye contact in a way that shows you are interested in what the person has to say. A firm handshake indicates self-confidence and interest. Repeat the person's name as you talk. This helps you recall the person's name when you meet them at a later time.

People are impressed when you look them in the eye, shake hands firmly and recall their names. Try it next time you meet someone new.



FCE 2008 Conference

Friday July 18, 2008 through Sunday July 20, 2008

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Monday, June 2, 2008
 IN ORDER TO INSURE ROOM AVAILABILITY AT THE GROUP RATE.

These rates are available Saturday, July 12, 2008 – Tuesday, July 22, 2008	
1 Bedded Room (Queen or King) \$100.00 Per Night	
2 Bedded Room (Double Queen or Double Double) \$100.00 Per Night	
*Rates are subject to local taxes *Room Types not Guaranteed	
OTHER REQUESTS:	SMOKING NON-SMOKING
NAME 1	ARRIVAL DATE DEPARTURE DATE
NAME 2	ARRIVAL DATE DEPARTURE DATE
ADDRESS	PHONE
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
CREDIT CARD NAME:	EXPIRATION DATE
CREDIT CARD NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS FOR RESERVATION CONFIRMATION
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD:	

FIRST NIGHTS DEPOSIT OR CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS RESERVATION.
 RESERVATIONS MAY BE CANCELLED UP TWO DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT PENALTY.

Check in time after 3pm Check out time is 11am

YOU MAY MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM CALL US DIRECT
 FAX COMPLETED FORM TO 802-764-1425 OR

**MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH FCE 2008 Conference
 TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL RATE!!!**

**The Inn at Essex
 Attn Reservations
 70 Essex Way
 Essex, VT 05452
 Phone 800-727-4295**

- Complimentary Transportation to and from the Airport from 7am to 11pm daily
- Outdoor Heated Pool, Fitness Center, Tennis Courts & Culinary Gardens
- New England Culinary Institute featuring Butler's Restaurant and The Tavern
- Located in the Green Mountains near downtown Burlington in the village of Essex Junction

2008 NATIONAL FCE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

July 18, 19, 20, 2008
Burlington, Vermont



FCE Celebrates Women!

Please print clearly: Membership # _____ This is my first National FCE Conference _____

Name _____ Mailing Address _____
(Last) (First)

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax (____) _____ Email _____

In case of emergency contact _____ Phone _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. BUT MAY BE TRANSFERRED

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Early Bird: Postmarked by April 15, 2008	Member Non-member	Amount
Late Postmark: After April 15, 2008	\$399.00 \$499.00	\$ \$
	\$499.00 \$599.00	\$ \$

MEALS: NOT Included in Full Registration

State Presidents' Luncheon and Tour (Thursday for State President or Voting Delegate)	\$50.00	\$
National FCE Board Alumni Dinner (Thursday for National Board Alumni members and spouses)	\$35.00	\$
FCL Leadership Fund Raiser (Saturday Dinner and Entertainment)	\$55.00	\$
Total Enclosed		\$

Check or credit card payment must accompany registration

Make checks payable to National FCE

Credit cards accepted: VISA, MasterCard (circle one)

Credit Card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

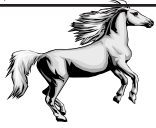
Signature: _____

Please make a copy of this registration form to save for your records.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

Keynote Speakers * Educational General Sessions * Annual Business Meeting *
Hands On Workshops * Eligibility to purchase FCE Tours *
Meals: Thursday Night S'mores Fun with FCE * Friday Awards Luncheon,
FCE Night Dinner and Entertainment * Saturday State Spirit Luncheon *
Sunday Breakfast, Closing Dinner and Ceremonies

Mail to: National FCE Conference FAX: 859-525-6496
73 Cavalier Blvd, Suite 106 email: nafcehq@juno.com
Florence, KY 41042



Tour A

Dancing Horses,
Scenic Islands and Shrine

Thursday, July 17 12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Enjoy a leisurely brunch or early lunch on your own before joining this tour at 12:30 p.m. for a scenic trip across Lake Champlain's islands to the exciting performance of "Airs Above the Ground " by the world-famous Lipizzaner white stallions. Also included is a tour of Vermont's oldest settlement at St. Anne and an interactive, narrated diorama at historic St. Albans. Your evening meal is included in this tour.
Minimum of 9 people
Cost \$99 per person

Tour B Food & Fun Tour

Thursday July 17 - 8a.m. to 5p.m.
Our day will be spent visiting and sampling at the Maple Sugarworks, tasting cider donuts at Cold Holler Mill and enjoying ice cream at the renowned Ben & Jerry's at Waterbury. We will visit the Capitol of Vermont at Montpelier, and take a breath taking view from a gondola sky ride at Stowe Resort.
Lunch is included in your exciting day.
Minimum of 9 people
Cost \$110 per person.

Tour C Scenic Tour and More

Monday July 21 - 8a.m. to 5p.m.
Ever wonder where many of our monuments come from and how they are made? We will have a first hand look at the century old granite mine in Barre, VT. It is one of the largest in the world. Enjoy the scenery on our route to Quechee Gorge for lunch, shopping and a demonstration of glass blowing before viewing Vermont's Little Grand Canyon. A tour of the Marsh-Billings Mansion featuring Tiffany glass windows and beautifully detailed woodwork will conclude our day.
Lunch included.
Minimum of 9 people
Cost \$99 per person.

Tour D Fife and Drums, Fort Ticonderoga and Flowers

Monday, July 21 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Vermont began with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. See his restored 1787 homestead, then journey to New York's Fort Ticonderoga, where costumed guides tell of Ethan and the Green Mountain Boys' victory there during the Revolutionary War. You'll enjoy the stirring music of the fife and drum corps and the firing of antique cannons after the included lunch at the historic Fort. You'll also experience the East's #1 wildflower garden, as well as shopping at their unique gift store.
Minimum of 9 people
Cost \$110 per person

Tour costs reflect higher gas prices and few transportation companies with mid-size buses. Those who come to see the "fall colors" in Vermont generally are from out-of-state, coming in large tour buses, so there's very little need for mid to large size bus transportation companies in the state.

Reservations due by April 15, 2008. Mail check with this form.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Make checks payable to:
D'Lightful Tours

Mail to: **D'Lightful Tours**
3672 H Road
Dunbar, NE 68346

Thursday, July 17

_____ Tour A \$99.00 pp \$ _____
_____ Tour B \$110.00 pp \$ _____

Monday, July 21

_____ Tour C \$99.00 pp \$ _____
_____ Tour D \$110.00 pp \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____



FCL DAY

**2008 NATIONAL FCL DAY
July 16, 2008 Burlington, VT**

- **WHEN:** Wednesday - July 16, 2008 at 8 a.m.
- **WHERE:** Burlington, VT at The Inn of Essex
- **COST:** \$99.00 before April 15
\$125.00 after April 15
Send with conference registration or anytime
Lunch is included
- **WHO MAY ATTEND:**
Everyone, there is no limit!
FCL Certificates awarded for attendees
- **FCL TOPICS**
taught by FCL National Certified Trainers

LEADERSHIP

“Leading With Knowledge and Influence”

Motivating, creating, and sharing leadership can inspire FCE members to become more educated leaders in the world around you. Take an active role in building the mission statement you will use to become a more knowledgeable and influential leader.

VOLUNTEERING and MENTORING

“Mentoring Magic”

Keep FCE growing and alive with this hands-on workshop that builds new leaders. Learn where and how to find them and how you can become the “underwriter” for the continued success of your local, state or national group.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES

“The Power of Teaching”

Knowledge is power. Learn how to use PowerPoint and other powerful teaching methods to increase your teaching power. Come prepared to do and learn.

GROUP PROCESS

“Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones”

Conflict can help strengthen relationships, build a sense of community and better meet group needs if we view it as a positive rather than a negative force, and develop skills to manage and resolve it. Learn to manage conflict that is sure to occur throughout life.

As you can see by the FCL Topics, we will have a great Family Community Leadership Day. See you there!

Karen Walker
Vice President for Public Policy

Membership # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

REGISTRATION NOT REFUNDABLE BUT MAY BE TRANSFERRED

Postmarked by April 15	\$99.00
Postmarked after April 15	\$125.00
Amount Enclosed:	\$_____

Check or Credit Card payment must accompany registration.

Make checks payable to National FCE

Credit Cards: VISA or MasterCard (Circle one)
Card Number _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on card:

Signature: _____

Mail to : National FCE Headquarters
73 Cavalier Blvd, Suite 106
Florence, KY 41042
Phone: 877-712-4477 Fax: 859-525-6496
Email: nafcehq@fuse.net

Make a copy of this form for your records

National FCE Board Alumni Scholarship

Conference Scholarship Application
*First Timers' Scholarship to National FCE
Conference.* Registration cost (only) provided by
the National FCE Alumni to first time attendees.
National dues must be on file at HQ by April 15th.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Age (optional) ____ Years of membership ____

Membership number (on label of newsletter)

Attachments:

1. List of offices currently held in FCE (local, county, district, state)
2. What National FCE program or project did you use last year?
3. How will you use information from the conference?
4. Recommendation letter from local FCE or State FCE president. Members-at-large must send letter of recommendation from business, church or other group.
5. A completed registration form for the 2008 Conference. (Forms of winners will be forwarded to proper places and others returned).

Send application, postmarked no later than
April 15, 2008 to:

National FCE Board Alumni
Donna Oncay
29 Olde Canal Way
Uxbridge, MA 01569

BANNED BOOKS – WHAT IS THAT ABOUT?

At the 2007 Annual FCE Conference I attended “Banned in 29 States: Censors Most Wanted.” It was presented by Omaha Public Library Librarians Rivkah Sass and Sarah English. A library’s role is to develop and maintain collections which reflect the interests and meet the needs of the community – not to pass judgment on the public served. Individuals may choose what they wish to read.

By written request, individuals may ask for a review of a book they want removed from the library. The book is then ‘challenged’ but remains on the library shelves. If, following a well defined review, the book is ‘banned,’ it will be removed from the shelves. The American Library Association Bill of Rights adopted in 1948 and last amended in 1961, is the guideline for making decisions.

The message is that we need to honor the First Amendment in the Constitution regarding Freedom of Speech and of the Press. There is seldom merit in ‘banning a book’. As long as libraries are public and free, they should resist offers by any individuals to impose personal opinions and moral values on others.

Points made were:

- “ No one is ruined by reading a book
- “ Youngsters and most readers only take in what they can understand
- “ Throughout history some of the most challenged authors remained on required reading lists for students
- “ Public libraries have a broad scope and are the people’s university of life long learning curriculum and encourage reading
- “ We want to promote reading and talking about books
- “ Most of all, READ!

Barbara Perry, MD FCE Member

APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER
APRIL 15 WILL **NOT** BE JUDGED

KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

My name is Paige Measner and I have been your Central Region Public Policy Coordinator since September 2005. My term will expire in September 2008. I have enjoyed being on the National FCE Board very much. It has definitely been a learning experience and I have gained many new friends.

I and my husband Dan, live on a ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills, 18 miles north of Burwell, NE. I actually work on the ranch for my parents and Dan has a “real” job in town. We enjoy flower gardening and our grandson. We have two daughters, one in Minnesota and one here in Burwell. I am a partner in a long arm quilting business with my mom and it keeps us busy. When I’m, not working on the ranch or quilting, I am a part-time mail carrier and work part-time at the local floral shop. I enjoy quilting, reading, and volunteering for different clubs and organizations. My sister-in-law teases me that I do too many part-time jobs and too much volunteering to ever lead a boring life.

I would like to recommend to everyone if they want a truly wonderful learning experience then they need to run for a National FCE Board position. I can honestly say it has been a fantastic adventure.



Paige Measner
Central Region Public Policy Coordinator

I joined FCE immediately after moving to Hawaii from California with my husband sixteen years ago. Hawaii was to be our retirement home and I was looking for ways to meet people in our rural community. My mother is a FCE member and it seemed like a fun way to spend my “leisure” time. I joined her club and quickly discovered the wide variety of programs and leadership training that FCE had to offer. So much for my leisure time! Over the years I have served as every club level officer that there is, as council treasurer, council president, as state secretary, as state vice president/president elect, and finally as president. Last year I served on the On-Site Conference Committee as the office manager. I have completed over 70 hours of FCL training and continue to interact with our state FCL training program by providing logistical support. FCL was my springboard for serving on several community and college committees. Serving on the National Board seems like a natural progression for me and I am really looking forward to the next 3 years.

My husband Clarence and I have three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren living in California and Texas. My favorite past times are sewing, crafting, cooking, and landscaping our one acre of semi-controlled jungle. We grow pineapples and bananas but just for our own consumption and to share with friends and neighbors. My newest passion is machine quilting. I love to read also, but rarely have time for such a luxury. Mentoring people and seeing them develop and succeed in FCE is a great pleasure for me.



Denise Smith
Western Region Program Coordinator

Deal with the faults of others as gently as your own.

— Chinese proverb

KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

I was born and raised on a small farm, married my high school sweetheart, Bob and we have one daughter, Rhonda. You might have met them if you attended the 2004 Conference in Richmond, as they were speakers on Domestic Violence Against Women. We are blessed with three grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

While Bob was in the Army and stationed in Germany, we toured Europe. We really appreciated the USA much more after being away.

I sold real estate in VA until we decided to return to MO to care for aging parents. After purchasing a mobile home park, and working for the Census Bureau, life took another turn as I was elected City Clerk. Most importantly, I became active in FCE.

Actually, I went to FCE meetings with my Mom before I went to school. She was President of the Lebanon Extension Club. They learned how to make leather gloves and etched initials on glasses.

I have held offices on all levels of FCE. I am now National Vice President for Public Policy. This position has been really interesting and fulfilling. I organized and facilitated the 1st FCL DAY in 2007 and am now working on the 2008 FCL DAY. This has been time consuming but is so rewarding as we bring new leaders to the forefront of FCE.



Karen Walker
Vice President for Public Policy

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

— Dale Carnegie, writer, lecturer (1888-1955)

Associated Country Women of the World or ACWW



ACWW is working with Women Worldwide, and as members of NAFCE we have the opportunity of working in partnership with them.

This year there is a dues increase. It is necessary due to the rising costs of expenditures voted in at each Triennial Conference. ACWW is dependent for income on annual dues, paid by Member Societies and Individual Members, as well as donations. There is no government funding. In 2010 the United States will be hosting the Triennial Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

There are specified Committees, and they work on Agriculture, Finance, Promotion & Publications, Triennial Conference, and United Nations.

ACWW works closely with the United Nations, and has representatives at UN centers in New York, Geneva, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Nairobi, and Bangkok. The representatives speak for rural women at UN meetings and the keep the UN informed about the work and concerns of its members.

One of the priorities is the Status of Women – Including Women’s Rights. ACWW is active in over 70 countries. One of the projects of ACWW is “Women Feed the World”. This fund supports subsistence food production, cooperatives, training appropriate agricultural techniques. They support World Rural Women’s Day which was launched from the United Nations.

MS-0123-I

There are four things you can't recover:
The stone....after the throw.
The word....after it's said.
The occasion...after the loss.
The time...after it's gone.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Committee, of the National Board, received a letter of thanks for the embroidery floss and yarn that members have been sending to Saroj Nalina Dutt Memorial Association, Calcutta, India. In this letter they asked for our help to have a new ROOF put on their "Old People's House". This compound was primarily for young children, but they have seen the need to purchase a house for old people and repair it, as families can no longer support their aging members, thus leaving them on the street.

The National Board felt the importance of this need and decided we could not ask our members to donate to this worthy cause if we did not do so ourselves. So at the board meeting, we took an impromptu collection of the Board Members and collected \$92.00. To help with this project, the Board wishes to challenge individual members, clubs, counties and states to match or beat our donation from 14 people.

The International Committee Chair, Patricia Stutzman, states that for each \$5.00 sent to the National Treasurer, a "symbolic shingle" will be sent to the donor. These "shingles" will be placed on the "roof" of a miniature building representing the Old People's House at National Conference. If you are not attending conference, you may assign your "shingle", to be placed on the roof by another member from your state or the Committee will place on the roof for you.

Please let Patricia know what your donations have been and she will send you the "shingles". Addresses for Patricia and the Treasurer are in the handbook on pages 1-2 and 1-3.

This is not the only project that the International Committee sponsors. We are still promoting the VIATA program "camperships for youth in Romania", the Peace Garden which is shared between the USA and Canada, and ACWW projects.

We realize the importance of all these projects, but the "Old People's House" is close to our hearts, as we think of them on the streets of India.

Let's try to complete the roof by contributing to this India project!

VIATA Report

This letter was received from a youth that wrote to Viata regarding the Romania project that many of you sponsor.

We thank you for your sponsorship which helped enormously in bringing people here. I saw with my own two eyes how people evolve from closed off to openness, excitement, and communication. From these people I learned things such as understanding and friendship. I think it is extraordinary that you would give with trust, without knowing exactly what goes on here.

For this we thank you so much!



FCE members enjoyed learning about Girls and Boys Town at National Conference. They agreed to send the Pennies for Friendship donations just collected of \$345.00 to Girls and Boys Town this one time only. We received the following Thank You note.

Dear National FCE

Thank you for your wonderful gift of \$345.00. With your generous support we are able to provide children love, warmth and a place to call home.

We are thankful and very blessed to have your support and love, allowing our children to be happy and smiling.

God's Blessings,

*Father Steven E Boes
National Executive Director
Girls and Boys Town*

www.boystown.org

Reports from 2007 Alumni Scholarship Winners

I thoroughly enjoyed my first national conference in Omaha, NE. The speakers were informative. I especially enjoyed Jason Scott's presentation about methamphetamine as we have a big problem with that in NE. I have used that information for a club lesson. The annual meeting was informative (although lengthily). The national officers do a wonderful job planning and running our organization. The meeting was conducted very professionally. In my own club we have a problem staying focused, but by having an agenda we can have more productive meetings and socialize after the meeting. Our meetings now last 20 minutes, programs 30 minutes and then we visit. This makes for a more productive club meeting.

I attended several workshops. The program on cyberbullying was very eye-opening. We have three teachers in our club and they thought that this is a problem in our local small schools already. They are addressing this, but I would like to reinforce this through youth groups, scouts, 4-H, etc. This is a program our club will work on in the coming year.

I also went to the workshop "And the Winner Is". Our club completed a state grant project providing back packs and supplies for low income kids. We now have the information and incentive to apply for awards. We are also planning a tour to the Cargill plant in Blair for next summer as our members were very interested in products made from corn.

The States' Spirit Luncheon was so much fun. The decorations and favors from the states represented were beautiful. I won the beautiful birdhouse at the Mississippi table. Joel Sartore gave a wonderful presentation on his experiences as a National Geographic Photographer. The food was fantastic and the accommodations were great.

Betty Hamara, NE

It was an honor to receive the National FCE Board Alumni Scholarship and attend the National Conference in Omaha and meet other women from across our great nation. Women who are willing to make a difference in the world around them, starting in their own neighborhoods. The programs offered were interesting and educational; hearing Nick Juliano talk about the success of Girls and Boys Town was inspiring and Clyde Otis from Music Talking gave helpful hints on how to relate to youth through music.

I took in the workshop on Book Banning and found the info helpful in explaining why librarians disapprove and don't support the idea of banning books. Also hearing about the huge problems caused by meth-labs really opened my eyes and made me realize I may have accidentally cleaned up a meth-lab, which I thought at the time was just trash near our house. I'm hoping to invite a local police officer to our Highland FCE meeting so we can know what problems our hometown community might be facing.

Only two days after returning from the National FCE Conference was our local units meeting day. Marsha Young and I shared details about our trip with the Highland Unite. Our program gave those who weren't able to attend the convention a little insight about the programs and business meetings, plus hear about all the new people we'd met. Since I'm also a member of the Andover Optimist, at the last meeting, I shared some of the shocking details about how lethal meth can be.

I plan to share photos of my trip to gain local interest in FCE. Some of those photos will be displayed at the community building where our unit meets monthly so others can gain knowledge of what FCE is doing. I've been submitting press releases to our local paper about our monthly meeting and plan to continue doing so. It is with much thanks to the board for awarding me this scholarship, My husband Larry encouraged me to attend even though we learned about his cancer diagnosis long after I submitted my application. My thanks again,
Cynthia J Ross, KS

Reports from 2007 Alumni Scholarship Winners cont'd

At one of our club meetings, Hawaii State President Katsuko Enoki informed us of her plans to attend the 71st Annual National FCE Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. She had encouraged us to attend with her. After thinking it over, I decided to attend my first National FCE Conference. My objectives in attending were to learn more about the FCE programs, meet other members from other states and to bring back ideas to our club or council.

I would like to share my highlights of the 2007 National Conference.

At the opening session, we heard from a person who works for the Girls and Boys Town. We hear or read about the Girls and Boys Town through television or the newspaper; however the information about this organization assisting children was impressive. What started as a safe haven for orphan boys has expanded to become "towns" with 19 sites in 14 states and the District of Columbia. This organization provides safe environments, educational opportunities and assists families of troubled youths.

FCE Night and the State Spirits luncheon were enjoyable, meeting other members from other states and finding out what programs they are involved with. I found that the members were all so friendly and willing to share their FCE program ideas. I will be communicating with some of the members I've met via the email or postal service. I also found the officers of the National FCE very outgoing and willing to share their knowledge of FCE.

The workshops I attended were informational and I enjoyed the hands-on things we did. I will be sharing some of the projects learned with the other member of our council and club.

One of the more interesting sessions was hearing about the ACWW Conference in Turku Finland. I wasn't aware of how FCE assists other people in various foreign countries and the reports given by the representative were enlightening. FCE members are willing to help other even if they don't speak the same language.

The displays from the various states were informational and gave us better ideas of how to communicate our programs.

Having attended my first conference, I look forward to attending more in the coming years. I want to thank the National FCE Alumni for selecting me as one of the awardees as a first-timer with the registration scholarship. It was a rewarding experience and one that I will share with others from Hawaii. As this was also my first trip to Nebraska, I have a little more knowledge of the state and its historical sites. Making new acquaintances with other FCE members was the best part of this conference.

I want to thank the Hawaii FCE for giving me a scholarship towards the conference expenses. I have a better understanding of the organization and will be able to assist with the various state, county and club programs.

Ruth Yamamura, HI

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- S *** Ask the individual to SMILE.
- T *** Ask the person to TALK, to Speak A Simple Sentence (Coherently) (i.e... "It is sunny out today")
- R *** Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately!! And describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Family ChoicE-Media Project

Undercover Shopping

The purpose of the Undercover Shopping project is to make people aware that retail stores sometimes sell inappropriate movies and video games to under aged youth. Those stores need to be made aware that consumers are against this practice. Parents should be aware that this does happen.

Do not send a child alone into a store without a parent or guardian. If you observe that the clerk has sold an inappropriate game/movie to a child, your next step should be to document what happened and speak to the owner/manager of the store either in person or on the phone. Writing a letter to the owner/manager is another option.

If you observe that the clerk does not sell the game, thank the clerk (either then or later) and let the owner/manager know you appreciate them following the guidelines and that you will let your friends know.

If your state is participating in this project, compile the results and send to your state president who will then forward by April 15 to the National Vice President for Program: Judy Fullmer, 4250 County Road C, Dighton, KS 67839-8801.

CONGRATULATIONS OREGON FCE MEMBERS

Oregon FCE recently was recognized by the Oregon State University Extension Association with the OSUEA Cooperator Award. OR FCE is a very effective network to help disseminate family and consumer science educational programs. For more than seven decades, OR FCE has supported the education of Oregon's youth through funding of scholarships for 4-H and raising funds for local county offices and fair grounds. The FCE members' many volunteer hours are used to supplement food pantries, hospice programs, foster parent organizations, holiday toy and gift drives, community action projects, hospitals, literacy projects and teaching educational lessons to their FCE or other community groups. One county was instrumental in establishing a county 4-H and Extension Service District; another group helped buy a fire engine and then built the firehouse to put it in and worked on a fund to buy an ambulance.

* * * * *

NATIONAL FCE HEADQUARTERS NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please change your files to show our new email address:

Old- nafcehq@juno.com

New- nafcehq@fuse.net

* * * * *

Did you find your membership number in this issue? Call FCE Headquarters toll free (877-712-4477) and claim a free pack of Hearth Fire Series of your choice.

* * * * *

Family ChoicE-Media Survey

The purpose of this project is to raise awareness of how your children/grandchildren are watching TV, movies and music cds and what you should be doing.

This survey can be used in your local community at county fairs, Agricultural Expos, local events or even in front of your local grocery store. Handout the ESRB brochure after people have filled out a survey. Additional brochures can be printed from their website: www.esrb.org. Make copies of the "Did You Know" or "Pointers for Parents" bookmarks for handouts. These handouts were given at the National Conference in Omaha and your state president should have a copy. When handing out this information, be sure to give an FCE membership brochure.

Compile the results of the survey and send to your state president who will forward the results by April 15 to the National Vice President for Program: Judy Fullmer, 4250 County Road C, Dighton, KS 67839-8801.

National FCE will use the results to develop future programming in the Family ChoicE-Media campaign.

* * * * *

The proof of a cook's skill is in the look and taste of the meal. Similarly, the best evidence of the quality of our parenting is in the character of our kids.

— Michael Josephson, Founder of Josephson Institute of Ethics and CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition

* * * * *

FCE STAR PIN

If you recruited a new member be sure and request your free star pin. Just list her/his name on the form below or if you prefer send a separate list, include your own name and address. Send to National FCE Headquarters at 73 Cavalier Blvd., Suite 106, Florence, KY 41042 or fax to 859-525-6496. Headquarters must have the new membership form in file before a FCE Star can be mailed to you.



I signed up a new member!

Name of Member: _____
Address _____
Date Joined: _____
My Name is: _____
My Address _____

Please send my FCE star pin!

EXTRA HELP

Do you or someone you know need extra help with your prescription drugs? There is a program through Social Security Administration called "Extra Help". To be eligible a person must have limited income and resources (things such as bank accounts, investments and real estate other than your home). Get your loved one to identify the things they own alone or with others (not counted are their home, vehicles, burial plots or personal possession), then review their income – gather records in advance.

Income limit - \$15,315 for individuals and \$20,535 for couples.

Resource limit - \$11,710 for individuals and \$23,410 for couples.

(Note: If you have earnings from work or self-employment the limits are higher.)

Social Security Administration has an application that family, caregivers or third parties can complete. Contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or go to www.socialsecurity.gov

PET CARE

I recently cleaned my garage and learned a very costly lesson. My cat, 'Punkin' loves to play in the garage and after the floor dried she had to inspect my work.



Later she became very ill, an emergency trip to the vet ensued. The vets first question to me was did you clean with Lysol? Yes, I had but it is a product I've used for years. The vet said that it can kill cats. As a result she spent the weekend in the animal hospital and was very ill. Needless to say, my bottle of Lysol has been tossed. Punkin has recovered but we are very selective as to what cleaning products are now used. Only problem with her now is she is demanding to be treated like royalty. She is in a family DVD and now a newsletter. How will I survive?

Judy Jones
FCE Headquarters

Washing in a Winter Wonderland – Your pet's paws need special care. Chemicals in sand and salt that prevent slipping can burn her footpads, leading her to lick and ingest harmful chemicals. Wash her paws with warm water after romps outside. Check for frostbite, too.

HEART OF YUMA AWARD

In 2006, Yuma County, Arizona FCE nominated Betty Graham for the Heart of Yuma award in the volunteer category. She was honored with all other nominees and winners at a ceremony.

On October 30, 2007 the Yuma County Association for Family & Community Leadership was recognized as a nominee for the Heart of Yuma Award in the Philanthropic Organization category. They were presented a red glass heart with gold lettering. The FCE logo was on display with all other nominees throughout the evening. All nominees names (there are several categories) were published in the newspaper and award booklet. Congratulations! Yuma County FCE and Betty.

Ten Rules for Motivating People

1. Learn to remember names. Inefficiency at this point may indicate that your interest is not sufficiently outgoing.
2. Be a comfortable person so there is no strain in being with you. Be an old-shoe, old-hat kind of an individual.
3. Acquire the quality of relaxed easy-going so that things do not ruffle you.
4. Don't be egotistical. Guard against the impression that you know it all.
5. Cultivate the quality of being interesting so people will get something of value from their association with you.
6. Study to get the "scratchy" elements out of your personality, even those of which you may be unconscious.
7. Sincerely attempt to heal, on an honest basis, every misunderstanding you have had or now have. Drain off your grievances.
8. Practice liking people until you learn to do so genuinely.
9. Never miss an opportunity to say a word of congratulation upon anyone's achievement, or express sympathy in sorrow or disappointment.
10. Give spiritual strength to people, and they will give genuine affection to you.

ND-1395-I

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