
Your FCE Speaks

Winter 2022/2023

Hello Fellow FCE Members,

I hope you have been staying warm and safe? The ice and cold winds have sure not made it nice to be out some of the time. And I know some of you have had to stay home for several days in a row due to the depth of snow and drifts around your area! Let's hope that Spring comes soon!

If you have not sent in your membership information yet, there is still time. Memberships can be sent any time, but the recommended time is fall of the year to continue your membership from one year to the next. For anyone that has let their membership lapse and then decides to rejoin, your membership years begin again at 1. Only those that keep their membership going from year to year will continue to increase in the number of years that you are a member!

We know that there are several members that will not be continuing with FCE, due to many different reasons. We understand that things change and we can't always continue to do the things we have before for one reason or another. We will miss you and hope you will reconsider being a member of a Great Group working to further opportunities for fellow citizens in our counties and the state as well as the Nation as a whole!

At this time, you would be sending your membership to our new State Treasurer, Sue Saathoff. (her address is on the State Officers listing elsewhere in this Newsletter)

Sue is one of the two new Nebraska Family and Community Education officers elected last September at the Annual Conference and Business Meeting. The new East District Director is Jane Mehaffey. We "Welcome" both of them aboard! We also want to thank Margaret Kellum for stepping up and putting her name in to run for office. It was wonderful to have all three of these ladies come forward and want to be a part of the group that works hard to make the Nebraska FCE organization a Great Group in which to belong.

The 2022 Nebraska State Conference and Business Meeting was held at Fremont on September on September 22 through 24. Thirty-seven members attended from across the state. A tour of sights around the city of Fremont was enjoyed by several of the members with others hoping to take in some of those stops at another time. Thursday evening we were

“Welcomed” to Fremont by Sally Ganem and the evening was a time to go shopping in downtown Fremont. Friday was the Annual Business meeting in the morning. There were reports and information discussed. A major concern is the amount of money in our treasury and how it is being taken care of. It takes about \$3000.00 dollars to cover expenses each year and with our membership numbers dropping, the question was “how are we going to be able to continue the organization?” There were lots of ideas and suggestions brought forward. The State Board will continue to work with this issue to try to find ways to slow down the expenses and possibly increase the income! (This is also an issue for the National Association for Family and Community Education). Another item that the State Board had discussed before coming to the Conference was brought to the membership at the meeting. That is the expense of getting the State Newsletter, Your FCE Speaks, to all of the members. We also had many suggestions of things to consider, and the State Board has discussed this further. (More details later). Of course, we had the election of officers and the announcement of the winners. The afternoon found us having the FCL Lesson “Positive Leadership Traits by Birth Order” and the Hearth Fire Series Lesson “Passing Family History to the Next Generation” were presented by State officers with the Rawhide FCE Club leading a craft lesson. The evening was the Conference Banquet with music entertainment and winner announced for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade youth contest. Although she was not able to attend, Beth Chase was announced as the Heart of FCE recipient for the year. Membership years were recognized along with past year officers. Saturday opened with the Memorial Service remembering those members we had lost in the past year. We then had another FCL Lesson, “When to Say “NO”! Look out for Scams!”, again by state officers. Then the Otoe County Sundowners lead another craft lesson for us. After eating our lunch on Saturday, we Sincerely thanked Chair Jane Mehaffey and her Rawhide FCE Club members for hosting the conference and all the work they put into the planning. We also had a “Special Thank You” for Jane’s family that had prepared and served wonderful meals throughout the Conference. The theme for the Conference was “Flowing into the Future with FCE” and we all felt like we were flowing toward more great things for our FCE Clubs!

While everyone in attendance had a good time at the 2022 Annual Conference and Business Meeting, we hope you are looking forward to the 2023 Conference. We don’t have all the details ready to give you yet, but the date and area in the West District are planned. The 2023 Nebraska Association for Family and Community Education Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held in Ogallala on September 27 through 30. We will have lots more plans made before you attend one of the District Meetings. In the meantime, you now have the dates and can mark your calendar so you can keep the date open to get together with your Nebraska FCE friends.

2023 Calendar of FCE activities

February 25 Central District - District Meeting

Ainsworth – Your District Director is Pam Bauer. Pam is planning on having a lesson on “Rabies” and human prevention that we received at the 2022 National FCE Conference. There will also be some mini sessions on recycling and she is working on another lesson. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

March 1 Deadline for Contest entries to be sent to the State President

2nd Grade Environmental Poster Contest - Entry form only – Poster is to be brought to Conference

3rd Grade Environmental Essay Contest

4th Grade Character Counts! Artwork and Essay Contest

5th Grade Creative Writing Contest

Heart of FCE

Spirit of FCL

March and April East and West District Meetings

The District Directors are working on their plans and more details will be available in the next newsletter.

July 1 Deadline for Contest entries to be sent to the State President

Heritage Skills

Homemaker Scholarship

National Conference Reimbursement Scholarship

August 3 through 6 National FCE Annual Conference

Erlanger, Kentucky More details will be available on the FCE website and in the Nebraska FCE newsletter as they become available.

September 27 through 30 Nebraska FCE Annual Conference and Business Meeting

Ogallala More details at District Meetings and in upcoming Newsletters

School Supplies

We are still gathering School Supplies. This can be anything that would be used by school students in any school. The change that was made a few years ago is that instead of bringing the supplies to the State Conference, we ask that you take your purchases to your local school. That could be any school in your area or even a family that does Home Schooling. This change was made because some years we have our Annual Conference in an area where we do not have local members so there would not be anyone to distribute the supplies to the local school. This also spreads things around instead of a large quantity of supplies going to just one area.

Ink Cartridges

Ink Cartridges is another item that we are also still collecting. We are asking that you DO NOT just throw the ink cartridges in the trash as they don't break down quickly and the ink can be hazardous! It is getting harder to find a place where we can recycle the cartridges and earn any profits for our labor. Several places will just take the cartridges but not offer any incentives for turning them in. Office Max/Office Depot does still offer an incentive of \$20.00 when you bring in 10 cartridges and make a \$10.00 purchase. This can be done each month. When I bring the ink home after collecting it at the District Meetings and the Annual Conference, I package it down to sets of 10 so they are ready to grab and go shopping. The only thing is that I now have approximately 28 bags ready and no need of making a purchase at this time. Therefore, I am asking you to consider collecting your ink cartridges and just taking them to your local office supply store and see what incentives they may have for you! If you don't find a way to recycle your own cartridges, continue to bring them to meetings and I will add them to the box. Maybe I will just have to take them in to recycle and not worry about the Rewards!

Election of Officers

Yes, we will have positions on the State Board to elect new officers this year. All offices are on a three-year term and at least two offices come up for election every year. This year there are three positions open. And all officers had an extra year during their term because of the Covid problems we all went through.

The Offices this year are:

Vice-President – Ginger Turner is the current Vice-President.

Secretary – Patricia Fear in the Secretary

Central District Director – Pam Bauer is the Director

While they have all done a wonderful job filling the office, not all of them are able to take another term. Ginger and Pam are coming to the end of their first term and could hold the office for a second term. But, they are willing to let someone else take over for the next three years. And they might even be willing to run for one of the other offices!

Patricia says it is time for her to step down from any office on the State Board. She was our State Treasurer for seven (7) years before taking on the Secretary position which she has held for (7) years (2 terms plus the Covid year). We will need to have someone else step up and be the State Secretary for the next three years.

The Vice-President does NOT automatically move up to President, but fills in if the President is not able to preside at a meeting or becomes unable to fulfill their term. If the President becomes unable to continue her duties, the Vice-President presides until such time as a New President is appointed by the State Board, usually at the next meeting of the Board. Then the Vice-President returns to the Vice-President duties. A President-Elect is voted into office during the second year of the current Presidents term and is an understudy of the President for one year before moving into the President position. The Vice-President is also the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The District Director plans and hosts a meeting, usually in the Spring, for any FCE member wishing to attend. They are responsible for securing a location for the meeting, setting the date, planning the lessons, crafts, tours? and meal for the day that the meeting is held. She collects all registration fees and pays for all supplies and fees associated with the activities she encounters for the day. Any profit from the day is given to the State Treasurer to deposit in the General Fund.

All State Officers are to help prepare for the Annual Conference and Business Meeting in any way they are assigned and able to do. The board members have a meeting to prepare for the business meeting on the day before the Annual meeting and usually two (2) other meetings throughout the year.

For more information about the offices up for election, you may call Ginger Turner, Cathy McKown or any of the other State Board members.

Your FCE Speaks Newsletter

Now for more information about the State Newsletter and all the discussions held for how to proceed with the needs and expenses of sending out a State Newsletter.

The cost of supplies to print and prepare the newsletter continue to rise.

The cost of Postage will be going up again this month.

We no longer have enough newsletters printed to be able to have "Bulk Rate" mailing.

Only three (3) newsletters are sent each year so not all information can be timely.

Most of our members either have a computer or someone in their club or family that can receive an emailed newsletter and print it for them if they would like to have a paper copy in their hands.

By doing an emailed newsletter, more information can be sent during the year which would help to keep everyone up to date with what is happening at both the State and National FCE levels.

And anyone that does have email but would still like to have a paper copy can print it for themselves and to share with friends and prospective new members.

Therefore, this is the last Nebraska Association for Family and Community Education "Your FCE Speaks" newsletter that you will receive in the mail.

From here on, you will receive an email with pertinent information as it becomes available or if a specific need arises.

There are a few exceptions that we will work with. That would be to still print from an email the newsletter for anyone not having a computer or not able to have someone else print the newsletter for them. (We do have a small number of members that do not have those options available to them). These members are being asked to fill in this form and return it to the State President Cathy McKown requesting that a print copy of the newsletter be sent to them or their Club President.

The only other way that we can see for the printed newsletter to continue being sent to everyone by USPS (snail mail) is to increase the dues to cover the increasing cost of supplies and postage!

For concerns or questions, Please contact your State President or any State Board Member.

Name _____ Member number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____, Nebraska, Zip Code _____

Phone number _____

() I do not have a computer to receive emails.

() I have an alternate address to receive the State Newsletter by email _____

