# National FCE Board Alumni Newsletter

## October/November 2026

**The President's Message .....**



**Greetings,**

**By the time you receive this, the midterm elections will be over and we will be looking toward the new term for inspiration, guidance and leadership. I hope all of you voted, no matter what your affiliation is. Your vote gives you a voice in the governess of this country.**

**Speaking of leadership, we are grateful to have Bonnie Teeples as our National FCE President. She has certainly spent many hours working with the insurance company, the current treasurer and others to understand and remedy what happened with our funds. The Alumni Association received $7107.18 restitution from our insurance company. Please be assured, we are keeping a close eye on our funds. And thank you to all of those that donated to the Alumni Fund.**

**How about the wonderful conference we had in July? Didn't go? You missed many informative speakers and interesting topics, as well as the comradery of your fellow FCE members. If you want more information on these programs, they were discussed in the Fall edition of *fce Today* and are on the web site. Won't you give thoughtful consideration to attending next year's conference in Lincoln Nebraska the week of July 11? We will be staying at the County Inn & Suites. It is a good bargain, and we will be touring a new city! How about inviting a fellow alumni member or a first timer? Sometimes it just takes a friendly hello, reaching out, and letting people know what FCE has to offer. You didn't become an alumnus by just reading the newsletter. You became an alumnus because you cared enough to attend and to take on a leadership role. We cannot get new leaders if we don't have members coming to conference.**

**I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, good health and good times with family and friends.**

**Joy to the World!**

Jeanne Purich

**Jeanne Purich, National FCE Alumni Chair**

**You can reach me anytime via email or text.**


**jcpurich@cs.com**

**301-641-4878**




**Board Alumni of the National**

**Association for Family & Community Education**

Chair Jeanne Purich called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m., July 23, 2026. The meeting was held at the Airport Holiday Inn, Erlanger, KY. She gave an inspiration.

Those present: Chair Jeanne Purich, Co-Chair Emily Gordon, Sec. Margaret Polen, Treasurer Martha Crawford, National FCE President Bonnie Teeples, Linda Hanberry, Mary Alice Weber, Scott Teeples, Connie Larrington, Judy Fullmer, Barbara Brown Beeman, Sharon Giocometti, DeLores Walden, and Faye Spencer.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were approved as sent out.

**FINANCIAL**

Martha reported that a new Chase Bank account has been established. It took donations to make the minimum of $2000. However, the Alumni received $3,725.00 in donations. She has received $300 in dues, giving us a balance of $4025 in checking.

Disbursements were $30 (for checks). The balance as of July 23, 2026, is $3995.00.

> Martha Crawford moved that the Board Alumni of National FCE pay one-half of the $3000 owed to National FCE in 2026 and the remaining half be paid in 2027.

**HONOR FUND**

The Honor Fund balance is $1935.00. Martha also reported that $80 had been collected at conference, giving us a balance of $2015.00.

**NATIONAL FCE PRESIDENT**

Bonnie Teeples welcomed us to conference. Bonnie reported that the insurance investigators needed more information and that has been provided. She feels that the Alumni will receive some money back.

**NEWSLETTER**

Denise Smith is resigning as our newsletter editor. She will send out the next newsletter and then turn it over. The members present agreed to appoint Margaret Polen as the new editor.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

There were no First Timer Scholarship applications this year. Emily said there will be more information sent to members for the 2027 Conference.

> Scott Teeples moved "for the National FCE Alumni to offer 3 scholarships for the 2027 National Conference."

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted, Margaret Polen, Secretary*

## Treasurer's Report submitted by Martha Crawford – October 1, 2026

Balance Oct 1, 2026 - $3,350.00 – includes $505.00 income from conference silent auction.

Deposit Oct 9, 2026:

Dues-$75.00

Donation-$75.00

Insurance-$7107.18

**Balance Oct 9, 2026 - $10,607.18**

# Reminder!

**Alumni dues of $25 for 2026-2027 were due September 1, 2026. If you have not already paid, please submit, using the membership form attached to this issue. Thank you!**

**Make check payable to: *Board Alumni of National FCE***

**Mail to: Martha Crawford *- address on form***

## From the National FCE Presidents Desk



I hope your summer has gone well and that you are geared up for the 'BER' months! I enjoy all seasons of the year, but I think I love Fall the very best! I love the colors, the smell, the temperature changes, sitting by a cozy fire, and wearing sweaters. It is also a time to give thanks for our family, friends, a warm home, and food on the table. As we take time to appreciate these gifts, we must remember that not everyone can count on having enough nutritious food—and that food security should be a concern shared by the whole community. For those of us who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, we rarely heard the term food security. We may have had simple meals, but there was food on the table and a warm home. Unfortunately, today more families struggle to afford either one. At the grocery store, steadily rising prices reveal the difficult choices some families face, including whether to pay the power bill or buy groceries. Food bank use is increasing, and many of those recipients are children. As gasoline prices continue to rise, families living in areas without adequate public transportation face an added burden. Together, these pressures leave us wondering what we can do.

These concerns connect directly with several United Nations observances in October Together, these observances highlight the UN's work to advance equality, support rural communities, and promote access to safe, nutritious food. They also remind us that strengthening food security requires policies and community action that improve the lives and opportunities of girls, rural women, and families.

National FCE helps turn these shared priorities into local action. Through education, advocacy, and volunteer service, FCE members can support food banks, strengthen food knowledge and skills, and encourage practical solutions that improve food security for families and rural communities. Meaningful action begins in our own communities. Donations to food banks provide support, but lasting food security also depends on addressing the conditions that leave families struggling. Please think of ways you can help in your community to build on our long-standing work of education, advocacy, and volunteering, to help create healthier, more food-secure. We may not be using Food Security as a National FCE project now, but the things we learned can and should be shared as part of who we are as National FCE members.

We had a fantastic conference in Erlanger! I really wish more of you could have been there to take advantage of the programs, the workshops and the fellowship.

Two new Hearth Fires were introduced, as well as two new FCL workshops at conference. The Hearth Fires are on **Autism** and **ACWW**, the FCL workshops were on **Public Speaking** and **Advocacy**. We also had two FCE members present programs, one on AI, and one on Screentime, each of these go along with National FCE's three-year project dealing with one of the new ACWW Resolutions. Resolution: **"ACWW and its Member Societies call on all governments at all levels to implement and enforce policies that reduce digital harms, particularly via social media, and promote adolescent mental wellbeing online. ACWW members commit to advocating for safe, inclusive, and equitable digital**

**environments for young people—especially young rural women—through public education, community engagement, and support for youth-led literacy initiatives."**

Report on Annual Business Meeting:

- Election of National Board members: The candidates for open positions were Vice President for Public Policy; Barbara Brown Beeman, elected by acclamation. Public Policy Coordinator; Pamela McIntyre Albarro, elected by acclamation. Program Coordinator; Pamela Sites elected by acclamation.

Thank you to all the candidates for your willingness to serve. We appreciate you all so very much!

- Three Amendments to the Bylaws:

Adopted Article V, Section 3, C:

- Following the report of the Nominating Committee at the business meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor by a voting delegate from an affiliated member state, provided the candidate meets the qualifications for eligibility in Article V, Section 2, with the exception of (B).

Adopted Article V, Section 11 The Duties of the Treasurer shall be to,

- G: An internal audit will be conducted before the end of each year by a committee of three knowledgeable FCE members made up of the President or a representative and two members at large (appointed by the President). ln consultation with the President, the books will be reviewed by a qualified person once during the Treasurer's term.

Adopted Article V, Section 11 by adding the following Section H

- H. If an audit/review is not conducted at conference, the treasurer will be notified that the proper documentation shall be forwarded to the President by September 1. If the documents are not received the treasurer (Article V, Section 15) will be placed on probation in accordance with provisions adopted by the board and listed in the National Board Manual.

Another important action we took at the Annual Conference was to make changes in the way **State FCE** organizations submit **all forms to National FCE**. Beginning with the year 2027 all **membership forms and lists, award forms, and recognition forms** will be submitted electronically. Money and the treasurers Form 'A2027' will be mailed to the National FCE Treasurer as usual. That mailing address is on the forms and on the website.

With the closing of our headquarters office, we cannot put the burden on Judy Jones in her home office for receiving, copying, and mailing the forms to board members. Going forward, all forms will need to be scanned and emailed to both the current National President at bdteeples@charter.net and Judy Jones at nafcehq@fuse.net.

**Please ask for a confirmation email!**

**The forms for all contests, award and recognition forms, as well as membership forms are available in the 2026 National FCE Flash Drive on the website. The button to click on is green.**

**In this website Flash Drive, you will also find all the lessons, the Award Book, and all reports from conference.**

Every conference has a different flavor and vision. Each conference is an enlightening, edifying and enjoyable experience, and this one was no exception. I express tremendous gratitude to the board and the 2026 On-Site Committee for all the hard work in making the 2026 conference a success. We had a wonderful conference this year celebrating 90 years of FCE. HOWEVER! The celebration will go on!

Now, on to some great new information!!! The 2027 National FCE Annual Conference will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Country Inn and Suites by Radisson. The dates are tentatively set for July 12, 2027, through July 15, 2027. The Visit Lincoln Visitors' Bureau has been wonderful to work with, and they will be able to help us get some good tour ideas for the conference.

**REMEMBER: You are the KEY; the key to growth, the key to success, the key to the future of FCE.**

## From the Editor



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

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

give me a call at: **808 430-2097** - leave a message if I'm not at home. Next newsletter **deadline is April 10,2027**. We hope to hear from lots of you!

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

A special thank you to Secretary Margaret Polen for updating the Alumni Membership list! If any of you know of fellow Alumni Board members who have passed away or changed contact information, please notify me or an Alumni Chair. *Denise Smith*



## National FCE Alumni Fund Raiser for 2027

We will continue to feature a silent auction of Small Quilted or Crafts items for our annual fund raiser at the Lincoln, Nebraska conference in 2027. Items such as table runners, pot holders, placemats, wallet purses, packaged food items, tote bags, and/or mini quilts are all welcome. The items must be small enough to fit in a suitcase. Moneys collected will go towards the National FCE Board Alumni Scholarship Fund to assist First Timers to attend conference. Please consider contributing one or more items for the auction! They may be purchased or handcrafted items. This year's auction brought in $505 - let's see if we can top that!

### First Timers Scholarship

Please help spread the word amongst your state and local members that there are scholarships available for First Time attendees to National FCE Conference. **First Timers Application forms are available on the National FCE website (www.nafce.org) –**
**Click on Quick Links > Alumni Officers, Forms, Newsletters. Or under the Resource Library tab.**

These scholarships cover the cost of the conference registration ($300). The applicants must pay up front for their registration and, if awarded a scholarship, the registration fee will be reimbursed to them after conference is over and they have presented or shared a program or knowledge with their fellow FCE members at home, based on what they learned during conference. We, as former National FCE Board members, fund raise and donate to support these scholarships. In turn these "First Timers" get to experience a national conference, see our National FCE Board in action, and learn so much about our programs. Plus, they get to meet so many members from different states and learn what other FCE organizations are doing. A "Win Win" opportunity for everyone - so let's get the word out!

# 2026 National FCE High School Age Essay Contest Report

## Scott Teeples – National FCE High School Essay Contest Coordinator

## October 12, 2026

**The 2026 Annual National FCE High School Age Essay Contest winners were announced at the 2026 National FCE Conference which was held in Erlanger, Kentucky. It was the third year of the contest. This new national contest is continuing to grow. This year there were 4 entrees from Southwest FCE (Arizona), Mississippi, California, and Oregon. Place winners were:**

- **1st Place: Yuridia Cazarez -Oregon – Awarded $500.00**
- **2nd place: Zainab Firdaus -California – Awarded $300.00**
- **3rd place: Ximena Lopez – SWFCE (Arizona) – Awarded $200.00**

**These essays are all wonderful things to read and feel the wonderful spirit each of them contains. All the essays, videos, and pictures of the finalist can be viewed on the National FCE website at https://www.nafce.org/2026-high-school-essay-winners**

**From the reports I have received, Oregon FCE had 14 entries, Southwest FCE had 7 entries, Mississippi had 4 entries, and California had 1 entry. I am hoping that we may receive additional entries from other states for the 2027 essay contest. The number of contestants is growing each year, and I am excited to see this happening. If your state did not enter one this year, set your goals to have at least one next year.**

**All of the essays from the contestants of Oregon FCE (www.oregon-fce.org/hs-age-essay-contests) and Southwest FCE (www.swfce.org/high-school-age-essay-contest) have been posted on their websites and you can view and read all of them. When you read these essays, you will see the great quality of the young people we have coming up. There is hope for the future.**

**The 2026 theme was "RESPECT." The theme for 2027 is "RESPONSIBILITY." The 2027 generic contest form, brochure, Pillar Book, and Help Sheet are all posted on the National FCE website www.nafce.org/resourcelibrary. If you have any questions or need help with your State High School Essay Contest, please contact me.**

**Oregon FCE has done something unique in relationship to the 2026 contest. In addition to the place winners receiving award funds, ALL 14 of their contestants were given a 2026 FCE Youth Membership at the State and National level. 4 of them have now joined FCE. Some day they may become adult members of FCE. Something to think about.**

**If anyone would like more information, please contact Scott Teeples at sfteeples@outlook.com, or call/text him at 541-891-6456.**



## 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference Report
## Scott Teeples – President
## October 12, 2026

The 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference was held in Springfield, Oregon on October 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2026. The Conference theme was "Come See FCE." It was a great conference which included 21 FCE members from across the state of Oregon and our new ACWW-USA Area President, Jane Chapman from Illinois. The Conference included lots of fun, laughter, dancing, shopping, awards, education, fellowshipping, service, business, new technology, and of course… great food. Card and dice games, hosted by Lynda Nyseth, were played every night… sometimes late into the night.

The Conference was hosted with a "Village" concept. Everyone takes on many of the responsibilities as needed to setup and operate the Conference. With many working hands all things are made easy. A "Country Auction" with ticket drawings was done as a fundraiser.

Sponsorships, in the total amount of $2,425.00 was raised, from individuals, Study Groups, Counties, Districts, and Businesses to help offset the total cost to the Conference. This helps tremendously to avoid raising the registration cost of the Conference. The cost of the Conference was $145.00 per participant. Without the help of the sponsorships, the cost per participant would have been $234.00 to cover all the cost of the Conference. A big thank-you to all those generous Sponsors.

This year, Oregon FCE tried, and succeeded, in some new technology. All sessions during all 4 days were broadcast via Zoom. We had one FCE member, Sandie Bolyard, who is homebound at this time, attended all the sessions via Zoom. Sandie also did her lesson remotely via Zoom. We also had a couple of others attend the Conference via Zoom including one lady from Cananda.

The Conference started with an Oregon FCE State Board meeting on Sunday afternoon while other members were setting up the Country Store and the Conference Registration table.

Monday morning started with a great Service Project of making homemade cards that were being prepared to be given to Veterans, Senior Citizenship Centers, hospitals, etc.

Monday afternoon included two lessons including "Lighthouses of the Pacific Coast" and "Autism." Between the lessons dancing, singing, and laughing was done to the songs and videos of "The Chicken Dance" and "YMCA."

Monday evening included 3 wonderful speakers including Sophia Takla (age 25) speaking on volunteering and community service. She spoke of all the challenges she had faced throughout her life and how she overcame them.

**Sophia Meyer (age 18), 2nd place 2026 Oregon High School Essay Contest winner read her contest essay. While reading her essay on "RESPECT" she injected her excitement about how writing and participating in this contest impressed her about FCE, the organization, and her desire to not only become a member of FCE but to become part of making the organization grow. She is attending University of Oregon and wants to start FCE at the college level.**

**Jane Chapman, our new ACWW-USA Area President spoke briefly and introduced herself and her goals as an ACWW representative.**

**Tuesday morning began with an Oregon FCE Business meeting where normal business was held including elections, financial reports, officer reports, and other miscellaneous items. At the end of the business meeting, we had a report from our National FCE President, Bonnie Teeples. We also had a presentation about ACWW from Jane Chapman.**

**Tuesday afternoon included 3 more great lessons including "Celebrating the Journey of ACWW and FCE," "Ring of Fire… the Cascade Range" (done remotely via Zoom," and "Artificial Intelligence, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." As always, between the lessons, we sang and danced to funny short videos including "The Twist."**

**Tuesday evening included lots of awards given including First timers, volunteer hours done, years of membership, Heart of FCE, and other awards. Oregon FCE reported a total of 15,039 volunteer hours. New officers were installed and the announcements of the drawings for the Country Store.**

**Wednesday morning included a Memorial Service to remember 2 past FCE members that had passed on in the last year. The final, and 6th lesson of the Conference was given. The lesson was "Strange Laws of Oregon and the USA." Lots of laughter and fun during the presentation.**

**A post State Board meeting was held after the adjournment of the Conference where the theme and lessons were selected for the 2027 Oregon FCE State Conference. Those selected were:**

- **Theme: "FCE is Heaven in 2027"**
- **Lesson 1: "Ghana… the Country"**
- **Lesson 2: "Gambling"**
- **Lesson 3: "Train Trips"**
- **Lesson 4: Vertigo"**
- **Lesson 5: "Air Fryers"**
- **Lesson 6: "Laughter"**
- **Lesson 7: "Great Oregon Women You've Never Heard Of"**

**Who's ready to attend the 2027 Oregon FCE State Conference and join in the fun?**

## *In Memory of Alumni Board members…….*



*Judy DeWitz ND who passed away at age 80 on Sept. 28, 2025*
*She served as Central Region Director 1990 -1992, Vice President for Program 1993 – 1995, President Elect 1997, and National FCE President 1998 – 2000*

*Delina Storr TN who passed away at age 93 on Sept 17, 2026*
*She served as Southern Program Coordinator 2006-2008*

**National FCE Alumni Chairs 2027 - 2029**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Chair* | *Vice Chair* |
| **Jeanne Purich** | **Emily Gordon** |
| *Secretary* | *Treasurer* |
| **Margaret Polen** | **Martha Crawford** |






# Photos of Silent Auction Items – 2026 National FCE Conference
# Thank you to all who donated!









**Donated by:**

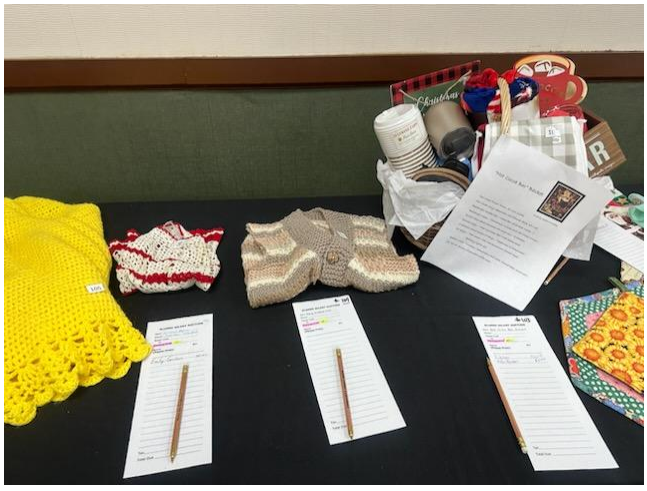
Denise Smith
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Faye Spencer
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Margaret Polen
Mary Alice Weber
Gloria Macomber
Martha Crawford

Jeanne Purich * Pat Fewell

Emily Gordon * Lynn Barut







National Association For
Family & Community Education

**NATIONAL FCE BOARD ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP FORM-20__**

(TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Years Served (optional) _____

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

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donation

$_____

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Total $ _____

**MAKE CHECK TO: BOARD ALUMNI of NATIONAL FCE**

**MAIL TO: Martha Crawford 1317 County Rd.288 Ballinger, TX 76821**

TOTAL OF CHECK: $_____

TOTAL OF CASH: $_____

ALUMNI MEMBER SIGNATURE _____

*Revised 10/26/2026*