



National FCE Board Alumni Newsletter

April / May 2026

The President's Message



Greetings from Maryland!

This is my first year as chair of the Alumni Board group and I'm very excited about being in touch with all of you. I hope to serve our alumni group in whatever capacity I can, and you need. I have been on the National FCE board and chair of the on-site committee several times and the crowning glory, "copy" queen, back in the day. I have served as the Maryland FCE president and held many other positions in both my state and county. I am working closely with Denise Smith, your newsletter editor to keep you informed of

activities of both the alumni and National FCE. Thank you Denise for continuing with the newsletter.

I'd like to invite all to attend our upcoming conference in Erlanger, KY on July 20– 24th. There is a lot of information on our National FCE website, including registration forms. And please remember to encourage all FCE members from your state who will be first-timers at the conference to apply for our First-Timers Scholarship (information available on the website). And don't forget the Alumni breakfast on Thursday morning, July 23. We will be fundraising at the conference as well as awarding scholarships. Please see more about this in the following articles. In closing, I'd like to

welcome and thank the other Alumni members who are serving with me: Emily Gordon – Vice Chair, Margaret Polen – Secretary, and Martha Crawford – Treasurer. Hope to see many of you soon!

National FCE
Alumni Chairs

Chair

Jeanne Purich

Vice Chair

Emily Gordon

Secretary

Margaret Polen

Treasurer

Martha

Crawford

Jeanne Purich

National FCE Alumni Chairman





Let's Celebrate 90 Years of FCE!!

National FCE is celebrating 90 years of building a better way of life for all by strengthening individuals, families, and communities.

FCE is all about unity, building friendships and strong community bonds. It is about serving each other, strengthening each other, cheering each other on! For the last ninety years you have been the ones helping others grow in leadership, showing others new skills, and teaching each other to step outside their comfort zone.

The National FCE Board is planning a great conference and sharing good ideas to strengthen our members and the organization. There will be two new Hearth Fire presentations - on ACWW and on Autism - and two FCL presentations on Public Speaking and Advocacy Based Membership. Margaret Polen, Vice President for Public Policy and Connie Larrington, Vice President for Program, will be presenting "Screen Time for Children". There will also be outside presenters and ACWW information. Our afternoon service project will be making tied fleece blankets to donate. Information for the blankets will be sent to all members in a future email and fceTODAY. Watch the National FCE website (www.nafce.org) for the registration form, hotel information and more!

We are planning to have FUN!!! We invite you all to the Party!!

CELEBRATE FCE! WE ARE FCE!

National FCE 90th Annual Conference ~ July 20-24th 2026 ~ Erlanger KY

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 October 10, 2026**. 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.

Special Request from the Treasurer!

As I take my place as the Alumni Committee Treasurer for the next 3 years, I would like to update the books and find out who has paid current dues (2026) and who has paid dues for multiple years in advance. The outgoing treasurer has had computer crash problems and cannot access this information. Please email me your reply to mcrowfordfce@gmail.com by May 31st. I'd greatly appreciate your help!



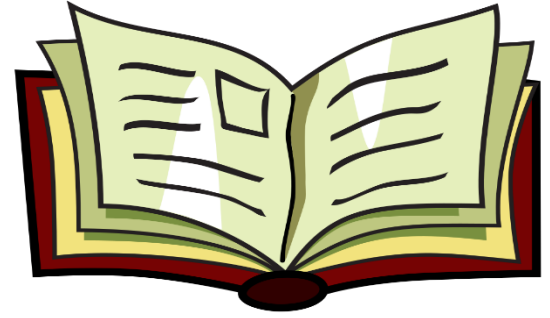
Thank You, Martha Crawford

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.

Ninety Years of Memories!

Dear National FCE Members,

2026 is the 90th anniversary of the formation of FCE!!!
That is a great accomplishment these days!



To help celebrate our Ninety-year journey, the National Board has voted to put together a booklet that will be a collection of great recipes you may or may not have gotten through FCE, your tips to make life simpler, and memories of your time and friendships within FCE! Please think about your journey through FCE and some of the best times you had with others, search your files for recipes and household hints, and share your thoughts and special memories about this wonderfully unique and long-lived organization that we all love and honor.

We know that these memories, recipes and or tips that will be enjoyed by all National FCE members for many years to come.

Please send all submissions to: (This is the preferred method)

Bonnie Teeples bdteeples@charter.net

If you need to mail your submission, please send to:

Bonnie Teeples ~ 4338 Arthur Street ~ Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Reminder!

**Alumni dues of \$25 for 2026-2027 are 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: National FCE Board Alumni

Mail to: Martha Crawford



National FCE Alumni Fund Raiser for 2026

We will continue to feature a silent auction of Small Quilted or Crafts items for our annual fund raiser at the Erlanger, KY conference in 2026. Items such as table runners, pot holders, placemats, wallet purses, 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. Last year's auction brought in \$657, let's see if we can top that!

If you are not attending conference, you can mail your items to **Emily Gordon, 780 Yell Road, Lewisburg, TN 37091**. Emily has graciously agreed to act as our FCE Amazon delivery! Your items should reach her by July 15, 2026.

Update Report on the 2026 National FCE High School Age Essay Contest

*Scott Teeples - National FCE High School Essay Contest Coordinator
April 12, 2026*



The second Annual National FCE High School Age Essay Contest is ending with the deadline for states to entry their state winner on/before April 15, 2026. The High School Age Essay Contest continues to grow with additional states entering contestants this year. As of this time 4 states (Oregon FCE, Southwest FCE, Mississippi FCE, and California) have entered their state winner. All of the 2026 Essays that I have reviewed are outstanding. Well worth your time to read them.

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. 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.

The place winner will be announced at the 2026 National FCE Conference, which is being held in July 2026.

Your National President, Bonnie Teeples, is looking for judges to help in reading and judging of the State winners. Please contact her if you are interested in helping her out.

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. 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 Member Essay Contest

Scott Teeples - Oregon FCE President

I am excited to share this information about our "NEW" Oregon FCE Member Essay Contest. A contestant must be current member of Oregon FCE. They can live in Oregon or be an Oregon member from outside of the state. Contestants placing in the top 3 of the contests can earn a Voucher to help with expenses at the 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference in October. Those expenses at the Conference could include registration, rooms, travel, meals, etc. Place winners will receive a voucher check for this only AFTER you have attended the 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference. 1st place is a \$300 voucher, 2nd place is a \$200 voucher, and 3rd place is a \$100 voucher.

The theme for the 2026 Member Essay Contest is the same as the High School Essay Contest, "RESPECT." All the forms can be located on the Oregon FCE website www.oregon-fce.org. All the rules are basically the same as the High School Age Contest.

The purpose of the Oregon FCE Member Essay Contest is to:

- Give all Oregon FCE members the opportunity to participate in a contest like the other essay contest we offer.
- The 2026 Oregon FCE Member Essay Contest provides members with the opportunity to write about the theme for the current year while learning a little more about the FCE organization.
- It also provides members with the opportunity to earn an award voucher, which can be used to aid in attending the Oregon FCE State Conference by winning or placing at the contest.

If you would like additional information about this Oregon FCE Member Essay Contest, please contact Scott Teeple - phone/text 541-891-6456; email: sfteeples@outlook.com.

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 Timer 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!





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: NAFCE BOARD ALUMNI

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

TOTAL OF CHECK: \$ _____

TOTAL OF CASH: \$ _____

ALUMNI MEMBER SIGNATURE _____