

January 2025

# fce. TODAY

*The Official Publication of the National Association for Family & Community Education*

## Words from your President

Here January is coming to an end, as I am writing this it is January 22 ~ 9 days left in the month. Where does the time go? We have had cold weather, really cold ~ below freezing and the wind chill sometimes has been minus degrees. I did not drive to town because of the cold ~ if I had any car trouble I did not want to be out in that cold ~ so I missed church, bridge, my museum meeting in the last week. That gave me time to think about the Midyear Meeting on February 10. What are we going to talk about?



### **Everything you want to know about FCE but were afraid to ask!**

We have put a lot of FCE information on the [nafce.org](http://nafce.org) website. Scott Teeples has been a great help. All our forms, the Hearth Fires, FCL Lessons, contact information, past conferences, current conference information, resource library, membership information, partners and projects, catalog, bylaws, the FCE Today and the FLASH, our history, National FCE Board Alumni, ACWW, Legacy fund, honor Fund, incorporation, copyrights, trademarks, State Association information, members page and more! Whew!! That is a lot of information and we know it is difficult to find the one thing you are looking to find. As we downsize the office in Florence, KY the website will be where we “store” a lot of our paper work. The Hearth Fires and FCL Lessons can be downloaded off the website. We will be using the website more and more as we transition away from a physical building. SO I thought it would be a good idea to cover the website at our Midyear meeting. We won’t be covering every item but I hope to cover the Conference Awards and forms that states need to fill out ~ so if you have questions now would be the time to ask.

Gather your club members and join us February 10 at 1 pm or 7 pm CST. You could make this your February meeting.

Judy Fullmer

National FCE President



# NATIONAL FCE MIDYEAR MEETING

**“SAVE THE DATE”**  
**2025 National FCE Mid-Year Conference**  
*Monday, February 10, 2025 @ 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm CT*

The National FCE Board is planning a 2025 Midyear meeting for Monday February 10 with two times to attend ~ 1 pm or 7 pm Central Standard Time. The board will be presenting information on FCE topics. We hope to be able to answer any questions members have about filling out forms, what information National is looking for, and how National FCE uses that information. **There is no charge for FCE**

**members, and Friends of FCE, to attend. Zoom links for the Mid-Year Conference are being emailed out, by Scott Teeples, starting in January 2025.**

## NAFCE conference promotions



Magdie de Kock  
ACWW World President

*2025 Combined National FCE – ACWW Conference  
July 21 – 24, 2025 Erlanger, Kentucky*

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*This year’s National FCE Conference will be combined with the USA Society of the Associated Country Women of the World. The ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock will be in attendance and a guest speaker. Ms. de Kock is from South Africa and is serving her second term as ACWW president. The conference will also include workshops, business meetings, a silent auction, a tour, and meals with several of the organizations that belong to the USA Society.*

*There will be 10 “First Timer” scholarships available through National FCE Alumni Board. See the National FCE website, [www.nafce.org](http://www.nafce.org), for information on how to apply or contact Denise Smith, [cdsmith2139@gmail.com](mailto:cdsmith2139@gmail.com). This is a rare opportunity to meet Ms. de Kock, a world-wide speaker, and it will be a conference worth attending!*

## Hello ACWW USA Area Members! Happy New Year!

I've been thinking about change and all the changes we are going through as organizations. I'm amazed at the willingness of the members to adapt and make change work! It reminds me of a quote by Gail Sheehy. She has said that 'If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living.' I liken that to the changes our organizations are going through. If we want our organization to live and thrive, we must be willing to accept change. Stephen Hawking said, 'Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.'



I know that as an ACWW USA Area we have not had a separate Area Conference. We have had an Area Summit and Area Meetings, but not a full Area Conference. I am excited about the move to have a true ACWW Area Conference!

As the Area President I wanted this conference to be a conference that would put the limelight on our National member organizations and the work they do as ACWW Societies. I have been meeting with the National Society Presidents to plan the conference. We will be having learning sessions written and presented by members of the National Societies, as well as a few outside speakers. I cannot give you titles of sessions yet, but most sessions will be dealing with ACWW resolutions.



We are excited to let you know that ACWW World President Magdie de Kock will be attending the conference and will speak to us. ACWW Executive Director may also be in attendance and will give us some ACWW updates and hold a Q and A session.

I hope you will plan to attend the conference! The dates are **July 22-24, 2025** in Erlanger KY. We will be holding the conference at the Airport Holiday Inn in Erlanger.

A draft of the conference schedule, the registration form, and hotel information will be sent out by the middle of February! Please look it over and make plans to attend! We look forward to seeing you there!!

Remember... 'You must be the change you wish to see in the World,' Mahatma Gandhi. Come to conference and help us be the change!

Bonnie Teeples

ACWW USA Area President

# SERVICE PROJECT FOR USA AREA ACWW COMBINED CONFERENCE

The service project for the combined USA ACWW Area Societies and National FCE is “We Support the Girls”. This program stands by women, girls and folks dealing with homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, cancer, large-scale disaster, incarceration. There will be a speaker from this organization so we can learn more about this program. All societies will have an opportunity to contribute to the program. They accept all kinds of new and gently used bras and any type of individually sealed menstrual hygiene products. Gift cards would be appreciated. Find out more about “Support the Girls” at: <https://isupportthegirls.org/>

## ACWW

The following project funding was approved to:

**Women’s Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)** with a climate-smart agriculture project based in Tamil Nadu in India. This project will empower 50 Dalit women living across five villages to invest in the health of the soil and to cultivate a sustainable income from their land.

Addressing Rural Women's Health, **Empowerment for Marginalized Communities (EMAC)** in Tanzania uses a behaviour change approach to empower vulnerable women and young girls to make informed choices about their sexual reproductive health, and address gender-based violence such as female genital mutilation (FGM), aiming to create a supportive and informed community. The project has three parts for the 130 participants: To increase awareness of both FGM and gender-based violence through community engagement; To increase access to sexual and reproductive health services, and: To improve psychosocial support services.

Our Education and Community Development project is **Reaching the Unreached Tanzania (RUT)**. This project addresses the challenge of school dropouts due to adolescent pregnancy and truancy in Kondoa district. It will implement a School and Community Partnership strategy to identify dropouts and facilitate their return to education. The project seeks to empower adolescent girls and young women, improve their educational and economic opportunities, and contribute to overall community development.

Supporting the Rural Women in Action fund helps these projects. THANKS FCE Members.

## Fun Facts About Presidential Inaugurations

Monday, January 20, 2025 was the 59<sup>th</sup> Presidential inauguration in our nation's history. As Ronald Reagan said in his inaugural address in 1981, "To a few of us here today, this is a solemn and most momentous occasion, and yet, in the history of our Nation, it's a commonplace occurrence." Here are some fun facts about past presidential inaugurations.

### **George Washington gave the shortest inaugural address.**

At his second inauguration, Washington's address was a remarkably brief 136 words. Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth and final inauguration speech ran for only 558 words — the second shortest so far.

### **William Henry Harrison gave the longest inauguration speech. It lasted one hour, 40 minutes.**

William Henry Harrison decided to brave the elements and deliver the longest inauguration speech ever. His 8,445-word speech lasted a very long time, especially considering the cold, blustery weather. Harrison did not cut his speech short, nor did he wear a hat or overcoat. Right after the inauguration, he came down with a cold that developed into pneumonia. One month later, Harrison died.

### **Harry S. Truman's 1949 Inaugural was the first presidential inaugural to be televised.**

### **The first president to have a poem read as part of the inauguration was John F. Kennedy in 1961.**

Robert Frost was the first poet to compose and read a poem at the ceremony. Frost had written "Dedication" specifically for the inauguration. When he was to read it, however, he was blinded by the sun. He did not have that poem memorized so instead he recited "The Gift Outright," which he knew by heart.

### **Thomas Jefferson was the first president to take the oath of office in Washington, D.C.**

George Washington's first inauguration was held in New York City, and his second was in Philadelphia, PA, as was John Adams's inauguration.

### **Inauguration Day has not always been in January.**

Prior to the enactment of the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Inauguration Day was held March 4, the day of the year on which the first Congress convened after the Constitution took effect in 1789. The last inauguration to take place on March 4 was Franklin D. Roosevelt's first one in 1933. He was also the first president to take office on January 20, for his 4<sup>th</sup> inauguration.

Inauguration Day occurs every four years on January 20 (or January 21 if January 20 falls on a Sunday). The inauguration ceremony takes place at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. The next presidential inauguration is scheduled to be on January 20, 2029.

### **The only woman to administer the Oath of Office was U.S. District Judge Sarah Hughes, who swore in Lyndon Johnson on Air Force One following President Kennedy's assassination.**

The Constitution doesn't identify who administers the oath to the incoming President. Traditionally, it is done by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall administered the oath nine times, more than anyone else.

**Which first couple was the first to attend an inaugural ball?**

James and Dolley Madison attended the first inaugural ball held on the same day as the inauguration. Tickets were \$4 each for the event, held at Long's Hotel on March 4, 1809.

**Since 1901, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has been responsible for the planning and execution of the swearing-in ceremonies and the luncheon for the Inauguration of the President of the United States at the U.S. Capitol.**

**This inauguration may be one of the coldest on record. William H. Taft's inauguration was the snowiest.**

In 1909, William H. Taft was sworn into office on a day nearly 10 inches of snow fell, a record for Inauguration Day. The Weather Channel says, "It took 6,000 men and 500 wagons to clear 58,000 tons of snow and slush from the parade route."

The swearing-in of President Ronald Reagan was moved indoors in 1985, before Reagan began his second term. That day, the temperature in the nation's capital was 7 degrees Fahrenheit, with wind chills in the -10 to -20-degree F range in the afternoon, the National Weather Service reported.

It was also the coldest Inauguration Day on record.

The temperature for D.C., according to the National Weather Service, was around 24 degrees Fahrenheit at noon on Monday. "Brisk" winds made it feel significantly colder, according to the NWS.

A couple of other exceptionally cold Inauguration Days occurred in 2013, when President Barack Obama was sworn in amid 28 degrees F and wind chills in the teens; in 1977, when President Jimmy Carter was inaugurated amid similar temperatures and wind chills; in 1961, when President John F. Kennedy took the Oath of Office in 22-degree weather with snow on the ground; and in 1941, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn-in for a third term on a sunny 29-degree day with wind chills at 10 degrees, according to NWS records.

Prior to the ratification of the 20th Amendment, Inauguration Day was held in March. Despite this, several presidents were also sworn-in amid freezing temperatures, including William H. Taft, Grover Cleveland (second inauguration), Ulysses S. Grant (second inauguration), Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson (second inauguration) and James Monroe (second inauguration).

Aside from Trump and Reagan, inauguration ceremonies were moved indoors amid inclement weather multiple times throughout U.S. history. Taft's inauguration, on March 4, 1909, was held on the Senate floor of the U.S. Capitol building, with temperatures dropping to 32 degrees and a blizzard outside. James Monroe's second inauguration, on March 5, 1821, was also held in the U.S. Capitol, in the House chamber, due to a snowstorm and estimated temperatures of 28 degrees.

# 2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest

Written by Scott Teeples – Contest Coordinator

National FCE is excited to announce that starting in 2025, there will be a National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest. During the National FCE Conference several states indicated that they would support participation in this National High School Age Essay Contest. The theme for the 2025 Essay Contest is **TRUSTWORTHINESS**.



Throughout the years there have been discussions across the USA about producing some way of involving and introducing young adults into the National Association for Family and Community Education (FCE). FCE across the nation has been suffering from membership loss and we all needed to find a way of inviting young people into FCE. Throughout the years, 4th grade students were introduced to FCE through the National 4th Grade Essay and Artwork contest. This is one way to introduce and invite young adults into FCE.

Some of the basics of the Contest include:

- Using the generic Essay Contest Forms, which are located on the National FCE website, each State will need to set up and conduct their own State Essay Contest.
- Each State will need to provide any monetary awards for their State Essay Contest award winners.
- Each State will submit their 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner's essay and forms to National FCE on/before **April 1, 2025**.
- The contest is open to all High School Age students.
- The contest must use the current 2025 rules and be written on the theme of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**.
- The contest can be completed at home, school, church or wherever.
- The contest must be done following all the complete rules as listed in the contest forms packet.

All of the forms and information for the 2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest can be located on the National FCE website

<https://www.nafce.org/resourcelibrary> These are generic forms and will need to be formatted for each State Contest. Instructions for editing the generic forms are also located on the website. You can see a formatted, and completed, contest form for Oregon FCE at [www.oregon-fce.org](http://www.oregon-fce.org).

Please contact Scott Teeples, 2025 National FCE High School Age CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay Contest Coordinator, Phone/Text: 541-891-6456; Email: [sfteeples@outlook.com](mailto:sfteeples@outlook.com) if you have any questions.

## The Six Pillars of Character™



## ***CELEBRATE IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY!***

January and February are full of days for FCE members to commemorate. We hope you observe them in some way. They are great ideas for programs. There are other days, weeks and months that are celebrated in these two months. Some are fun, some are serious, some relate to our 3 year focus ~ Food Security. Pick your favorite one or two and have some fun!!!

### **JANUARY MONTH of AWARENESS for:**

- National Blood Donor Month
- National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- National Hot Tea Month

### **FEBRUARY MONTH of AWARENESS for:**

- African American History Month
- National Cancer Prevention Month
- National Heart Month

### **JANUARY WEEKS:**

- 19 - 25 Global Crayola Creativity Week
- 19 - 25 National Healthy Weight Week

### **FEBRUARY WEEKS:**

- 2 - 8 Women's Heart Week
- 9 - 15 National Jell-O Week
- 16 - 22 National Random Acts of Kindness

### **JANUARY DAYS:**

- 4 National Play Outside Day (FIRST Saturday of every MONTH)
- 6 New Mexico admitted to the Union
- 21 National Hugging Day
- 22 Library Shelfie Day (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in January)
- 23 National Pie Day
- 25 National Seed Swap Day (last Saturday in January)
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 27 National Chocolate Cake Day
- 29 Kansas admitted to the Union

### **FEBRUARY DAYS:**

- 1 National Play Outside Day (FIRST Saturday of every MONTH)
- 1 National Texas Day
- 2 National Groundhog Day
- 3 National Missing Persons Day
- 4 National Homemade Soup Day
- 7 National Wear Red Day
- 11 National Make a Friend Day
- 12 National Giving Hearts Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Oregon admitted to the Union
- 14 Arizona admitted to the Union
- 14 National Organ Donor Day
- 17 Presidents Day
- 20 National Leadership Day
- 20 World Day of Social Justice
- 21 National Caregivers Day
- 24 National Set a Good Example Day