



April 28, 2021

Good Morning everyone. As I am writing this fce Flash dawn is just waking up, the sun is coming up, the birds are singing, making this a new and glorious day. The air is calm, for the time being, and the birds are enjoying their morning meal at the feeders in the backyard giving them cause to sing. We have much to be thankful for even with this strange virus still invading our country. Many heartfelt prayers and hugs go out to all of you at this time with (COVID-19) affecting all of us in one way or another. Maybe you know someone that has gotten sick, maybe there has been a loss of life, businesses have had to close or figure out a new way to do business or maybe you have even been laid off or furloughed due to this strange virus causing havoc with all of us. Vaccine is now available for most everyone that wants it except for the youth and children. CDC is setting new guidelines for those that are vaccinated and how to handle gatherings. So hopefully in the coming days and months everyone can gather with their family, fce club, etc.

With all of this going on your national FCE board and conference committee have held conference calls regarding the 2021 national conference. **It was decided since there was still an uncertainty regarding COVID-19 to hold the conference virtually via zoom instead of in person.** The age of technology has really come alive since COVID 19 and the board feels that we can make this happen. Conference will be held at the same time it was originally scheduled July 29th thru August 1st, but the details have not been worked out at this time. We may be looking at one day or a morning of one day and the afternoon of another day. The **theme** for the conference will be:

FCE is ALIVE in 2021!

What a great theme the board came up with for we are alive and going forward even though in a different way during COVID. Many things must be worked out yet, but there will be a version of the annual meeting, lessons, new programs announced, and hopefully a motivation speaker. Please watch the website www.nafce.org as the details are worked out and the exact date that national conference will happen. I am excited that we will be able to meet even though it will be on the computer.

A couple of things that we know regarding the 2021 conference are that even though there will not be a charge for this conference all attendees will need to send in a registration form for only so many may attend thru zoom. The other thing is that those wishing to take part need to have a webcam and microphone on the device that they wish to use for this conference. If you do not have a computer, iPad, cell phone that is compatible for using zoom, check with other members of your club, a neighbor, extension office or you can purchase the webcam/microphone and attach it to your computer. They are not very expensive. There will be a telephone number a person can dial into and just listen but not take part. Each state should have a delegate that can attend and do the voting, but others are welcome to attend. Remember that as these details are finalized, they will be posted on the website.

May 1, 2021 is the day that all the reports, essay state winners, and heart of fce winners need to be postmarked. Check with your state president for more details or check the FCE calendar on the website.

Attached to this email along with the flash is a letter from the nominating chairperson, Peggy Martens, encouraging all to apply for the open positions on the board. This is a great rewarding experience, a time to learn more about the internal workings of the organization and the wonderful fellowship with others just like you, FCE MEMBERS.

Hopefully, some of you were able to attend the special world conference that ACWW held via zoom the week of April 17 thru April 23 to discuss the resolution to change the Triennial from 2022 to 2023 due to COVID. The resolution did pass with May 17th thru May 25th, 2023 chosen as the dates for the 30th Triennial to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Some special dates coming up:

May 1st is May Day

May 4th is National Teachers Day

May 9th is Mothers Day

May 10th is Shrimp Day

May 15th is the National and International Day of Families

May 20th is World Bee Day – 

Since **Saturday, May 1st** is **MAY DAY**, which is a holiday rich in folklore, celebrating the return of spring. As a child, maybe you remember grandparents, parents, or friends leaving delightful little May Day baskets and dancing around the Maypole at school. Kids would make May Day baskets with flowers or candy, ring the doorbell, leave the basket and run away so that the receiver of that basket did not know who had left it. Maybe this is the day that you send a basket of flowers in the form of a card or letter full of wishes to a relative, friend or neighbor just to let them know that you are thinking of them at this time of social distancing and not being able to visit like normal times. Or you could get someone a special take-out meal and drop it off. How about a bag of groceries? This could be the day to “Pay it Forward” by helping where needed.

Let us fill our May Day baskets with patience, kindness, blessings, sunny days, and goodness as we learn to live with a new normal at this time in our country.



Everyone Stay Safe and Healthy!

Ardyce Snyder, NAJCE President