

The Messenger

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTER REGION FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Greetings from your President

by Joyce Ernst

Who's ready to Shine for FCE! The Eastern Region Board thinks 2022 will be a banner year! We need to increase and maintain membership. We want all clubs to be committed to spreading sunshine in their community. Now is the time to set your clubs goals for 2022. Are you ready? Do you need a dose of vitamin TAFCE? We are here to help you. Don't just Survive, THRIVE! Here are a few ideas from the Eastern Region Board to make your club the very best that it can be.

- Nurture and educate all members of your club. Even those who have been around for a while. Avoid the "everybody knows" syndrome.
- Make your members indispensable. Ask them if they will take responsibility for duties and projects in your club. Show them that their contributions are appreciated and vital.
- Place value on your members' talents. Your club will benefit from the knowledge that you find within your ranks.
- Don't take for granted the value of your members' time. Make meetings productive and educational.

I am excited for the new changes for 2022 in Eastern Region. We will be moving around in the sub regions for our Board Meetings, Fall Conference and Leadership Day. Watch our web site and Newsletter as the Planning begins. If you were at Leadership Day, I hope you are spreading the word. Leadership Day was well attended and an enjoyable day for all.

We are still in need of a Bus Chairman so Eastern Region may have a bus for the 2022 State Conference in Franklin, TN. Our own Kay Baker will mentor you. Please contact me if you are interested.

Wishing you the best in 2022.



What's New

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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COUNTY NEWS

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FCE CAMP-A-LONG

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TAFCE Board would like to encourage all of our Tennessee FCE members to join NAFCE (National Association for Family and Community Education). NAFCE is our parent organization, that writes The Heart Fire Series, FCL educational materials, and FCE Today. NAFCE needs the support of ALL FCE members.

The 2022 NAFCE membership form can be found on the state website. This form with the original signature (not a form with a copied signature), along with appropriate dues, should be sent from the county treasurer to the region treasurer, Marti Agler.



TAFCE Mission Statement:
To strengthen the home and community by improving the quality of life of individuals and families through continuing education, leadership development, and community service.

All dates, forms, contacts and information can be found on the TAFCE Website.

Notes from the Bean Counter

by Marti Agler, TAFCE Eastern Region Treasurer

What a pleasure at the State Conference and the Eastern Region Leadership Day to meet some of the members with whom I have interacted! Telephone and email works but there is nothing like face-to-face meeting; thank you to all those who introduced themselves to me and reminded me (my lamentable memory) of the correct county and position. I hope to meet many more of you as we have Regional meetings and activities in the four Sub-regions in 2022.

Our next big activity will be the Spring Camp in Greeneville May 24-26. Leslie Sharp, Vice President of Programs, and I have had several discussions on ideas to make the registration and other administrative tasks easier for the members and we intend to seek wisdom from our advisors to continue those efforts. Please plan on attending this fun time.

Congratulations to all those members and clubs who received awards at the Leadership Day. One cannot help but be impressed with the talent and caring expressed by all of you! As you are planning your County and Club meetings for this year, please give thought to all the award possibilities and pursue something not done by your group in past years. Trying new things helps keep our brains young and vibrant.

Happy New Year to each of you! January 1 is just like those brand-new notebooks with which we all started school each year, all clean pages, and blank slates waiting for us to fill them with the best things possible. Commit to making 2022 the Best Year Ever for FCE! Feel free to ask if I can help in any way.

Updates from Vice President of Public Policy

by Sharon Clapp

Happy New Year! As public policy vice president, I need your applications for Spring FCL, even the ones who attended last year who have not graduated (2 sessions-Spring and Fall), by March 1st. You also write a check if we hold in person sessions. I will get this to you when I receive it from TAFCE. Read what FCL classes are in your yearbook or the planner from your president or agent.

June 1st is the due date for all counties to send each member's CVU hours to me. All clubs turn in the individuals and totals to the president of our county or the agent in alphabetical order with last name first. Start collecting by March, PLEASE.

Counties, be thinking of a nominee for Best of the Best to be submitted on July 1st. Check the planner for guidelines.

News from the Counties

Hamblen County

Greetings from Hamblen County. We had a wonderful gathering at the home of retired agent Nancy Marshall this month. Nancy has been so gracious to have us in her home for the Christmas luncheon for the past several years. Members bought covered dishes and a gift for the Dirty Santa fun game. It is such a great way to close out the past year.

We have a suggestion for the Board to consider in the future. We have some agents who go way beyond the call of job description to work with our members. We would like to see an entry from each county and then an award or recognition of the Best of the Best.

We hope that the new year brings us better health and a rush of new members who cant wait to be a part of our great organization. Here's wishing all FCE members a wonderful Holiday Season.



Meigs County

The Ten Mile Club and some of the Decatur club met in November to plan our December meeting. Everyone brought baby items to donate to a local ministry.

In December both clubs gathered at Lake Side Baptist Church for our Christmas celebration. Sarah Kelly of Morning Star Ministries spoke to us about the difficulties that special needs adults encounter on a daily basis. Morning Star provides a place for them to meet and learn and socialize together. They also provide assistance to them when needed. Afterwards we enjoyed a very good meal and a fun round of Naughty Santa!

Both clubs are looking forward to the new year and hopefully less Covid!

**If your county is not here,
your County Council President should
insure that information for the next
newsletter is to Pat King by Feb. 15th**

Union County

Union County FCE has become smaller but mighty after the past two years of Covid upheaval. We lost our Sharps Chapel Club but greatly expanded our Big Ridge Cub membership.

Big Ridge Club took a field trip to Carver Apple orchards in Cosby for lots of produce shopping and a wonderful lunch. Our fabulous extension agent Alyshia Victoria drove part of our group to Cosby in a comfortable ten passenger regional van. Great fellowship and fun times.

We celebrated Thanksgiving at our November meeting with a delicious potluck and a craft lesson presented by our extension agent Alyshia Victoria. We planned our charitable activities for 2022 and gave \$200 to our local children's Christmas toy drive which has been chaired for many years by Big Ridge President and longtime member Carol Pratt. Regional Board member Leslie Sharpe reported on the November TAFCE State Conference. Several members expressed a desire to attend Eastern Region Camp in Greeneville in May.

Union County cont.

We also made plans for our annual Christmas party and gift exchange to be held on December 16. Our party is always lots of fun and especially so since we have seven new members.

Big Ridge Club Union County members are eagerly looking forward to FCE activities in 2022.



Washington County

Washington County FCE club held their annual Holiday Food Fest on December 2, 2021, at the Jonesborough Visitors Center. Each of the County FCE clubs prepared two recipes, one savory and one sweet, for the participants to taste. They also received a cookbook with all the recipes. Club members decorated their tables with a theme of "Together again with FCE". The entertainment for the day was David Crockett High Schools Madrigles. This event was open to the public to attend and there were over seventy people in attendance. The Washington County FCE club also decorate a tree in the Visitors Center each year with hand made ornaments.



4 SESSIONS ARE PLANNED IN 2022

**SAVE THE DATE
1ST SESSION**

Friday February 4th 10AM

**EASTERN REGION
VIRTUAL
FCE CAMP-A-LONG
ACTIVITIES INCLUDE
EDUCATION AND CRAFT**

Contact your FCS Agent to register and see if
there is an option to attend the session at your
County Extension Office

Dates to Remember

March 1	FCL applications due to region VP of Policy Sharon Clapp
March 1	Character Counts winner due to State President
March 2	Read Across America

PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: TAFCE AND EASTERN REGION FCE