

The Messenger

NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
EDUCATION

Greetings from your President

by Joyce Ernst

Summer is here in East Tennessee. Members are starting to meet with their clubs again either by zoom or in person. 2020 was challenging for all of us. We could no longer meet in groups and were asked to stay home if you were not an essential worker. Now I am putting together my items to enter in Cultural Arts and hope you are doing the same. Fall Conference is scheduled for September 20 at Rothchild.

I am so excited! We have a new Eastern Region Website! If you have not already visited the website, at: <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/eastern-region-fce/> please do so! There is a lot of information on the website about our upcoming Eastern Region Camp-a-Long that replaced our Spring Camp this year. Please register with your county agent. The next dates are June 15th, July 20th, and August 17th. There is also information for the Eastern Region Executive Board members, the 2021 program planner, important dates to remember, the recent TAFCE newsletter, and much more. I look forward to seeing you online at Camp-a-Long.

Elections for the Eastern Region Board are in November at our Annual Meeting. There are two positions open on the Eastern Region Board: President - Elect and Vice President of Programs. Forms are available on our Eastern Region Website. A Cultural Arts Chairman is also needed which is an appointed position by your president. Please contact me. We need members to step up.

I want to thank each of you for all you do for your community through FCE and I would ask that you reach out to new neighbors, friends, family members, and even former members to invite them to your next Zoom FCE meeting in person meeting or an outdoor gathering. We are each one responsible to help grow our FCE membership. Now is the time as most are ready to get out and socialize again.



What's New

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

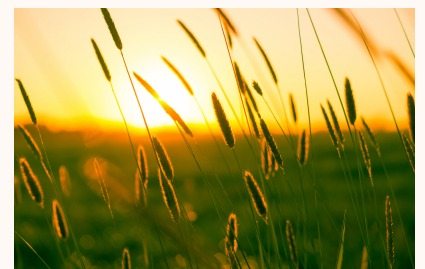
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MEET THE NEW ADVISOR

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COUNTY NEWS

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Meet the new Advisor

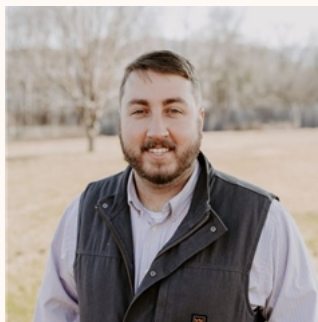
by Justin Thomas

Justin Thomas is the new Regional Program Leader for Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Youth Development.

He has served as an intern, program assistant, county agent, and county director in Kentucky and Tennessee. He is a native of McMinn County and lives there with his wife, Megan, and three children, Piper, Reed, and Isaac.

Justin completed his undergraduate work at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky and his Master's degree at the University of Tennessee.

When he has free time, he enjoys spending it with the family whether it is the backyard or Dollywood.



News from Clare Nell Breeden (Past President)

I look forward to attending the 2021 FCE State Conference at Cool Springs Embassy Suite November 14-17. I hope you have already put the dates on your calendar.

We have always looked forward to the special events at conference such as Cultural Arts, Fashion Revue, Creative Writing, and recognition of achievements of members. State Conference is a great experience of sharing with each other and gaining new ideas and experiences. During my years of attending FCE programs, I haven't missed many State Conferences. Hopefully as time goes on we will be getting back to "normal." It's been a tough year for many people. We've watched friends and loved ones suffer with health issues and financial losses. Yet we must be thankful for our blessings that we do have and they are bountiful.



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

Thanks to all the Eastern Region FCE members who paid me the honor of electing me as your Treasurer for the 2021-22 term. As especially big "Thank You" to the outgoing Treasurer, Fran Howard, who has given unstintingly of her time and knowledge to help me get started in this role.

I hope you are attending the virtual Camp-a-Long sessions each third Tuesday morning, you may be one of the lucky members to whom I can send a Cracker Barrel Gift Card! We are getting some great information from our talented agents and volunteer members. Register through your county agents for these fun sessions.

We are holding the Fall Conference in person at Rothschild's Event Center in Knoxville on September 20th. You will soon have the registration form for that luncheon and Cultural Arts/Fashion Revue. Please return to me by the due date on the form so your lunch is ready for you when you arrive! Remember that you must be a registered 2021 TAFCE member to submit entries into the competitions.

Thank you to all those County Treasurers and Agents who worked so hard to collect and forward the 2021 dues. We have received all except three counties information. This has been no small task during this difficult year!

Another very important deadline is October 1st. This is the date by which I need your 2022 Member Rosters and Due Payments for the Regional and State portion of the dues, \$4.00 each, and all NAFCE memberships (remember that NAFCE requires the separate form). We will be supplying the 2022 Forms for both TAFCE and NAFCE memberships to your County Treasurers shortly. Don't forget to check the updated Eastern Region website (<https://eastern.tennessee.edu/eastern-region-fce>) for access to due dates, forms, etc. It has been refreshed and is quite helpful.

For those who may not have access to a Planner, here is my contact information: Marti Agler, 1300 Poplar Court, Sevierville, TN 37862; 865-428-1472; martiava@att.net. If I can help you in any way, it would be my pleasure. I hope many of you will be at the Fall Conference so I can begin putting faces to some of the wonderful FCE members to whom I have spoken in the past few months.



Updates from Vice President of Public Policy

by Sharon Clapp

CVU's

Please call and collect volunteer hours with dates, type of activity, hours, and people reached for the year 2020. If you have 2019, turn in separately. If not, we will double 2020 hours. I have to turn in totals by July 1st to the state.

Best of the Best

I have received 2 folders for Best of the Best. Other counties, please send in your nominations by July 1st.

FCL

In April, we had 3 to attend virtually. They were: Marti Aglar (Seiver), Ella Parker (McMinn), and Leslie Sharp (Union). I need at least 4 more people for August session (25th-26th), hopefully in person in Lebanon, by July 10th. Agents can give the details.

News from the Counties

Campbell County FCE year today. Campbell County is blessed with some of the best. As a whole we have contributed to Santa's for Seniors which touched over 40 lives, are group also helped establish a compassion closet which helps this regions foster care donations. Our group has assisted in helping our recovery homes for men and women all while keeping our social distancing. We have assisted in sustaining several wildlife habitats to ensure bee and Songbird population do not dwindle.(all in Coalition with our local 4-H Youth) several dedicated members are tirelessly making masks for persons in the community; over 1500 mask made so far. These are just a few of our involvements this year. Social distancing has been a hurdle that our members have jumped over and through to make sure we keep ourselves involved and moving.

Most importantly we are holding meetings! We are actively participating in classes! Our members are engaged and so happy to be together. We are blessed with the best: best helpers, volunteers, teachers, and most of all friends. Submitted by Club president Amy Johnson.

Cumbland County

Dorton

Our club has had a few quilting classes this year. We have talked about involvement in the county fair. Making bibs and walker aprons for local nursing homes is on our list again. Unfortunately, we have lost two of our members (they passed away) this year who both have been long time members of FCE. Deanna Bertrum who has served as secretary-treasurer for several years. Donna Davis who is probably one of the first Dorton club members. We are very excited to return to somewhat "normal" in the very near future.

Lake Tansi has been meeting in person and by zoom. The programs have been interesting and well received. One program was making a gnome and another was how to fill out an advance care directive (living will). To date this year LTFCE has nine new members.

The club enhanced the adult lending library to include a child and youth section. We are pleased the number of books that are being donated and the usage so far. Later this year, the club will begin a reading time for members to read a book to a group of children on an ongoing basis.

News from the Counties cont.

Taylor's Chapel resumed in person meetings early this year. We have had programs to learn beginning crochet, how to set up a zoom meeting, and the finer points of grocery shopping online. We also attended a performance of 'Clue' at the Playhouse. We are pleased to welcome a new member, Anne, who is going to be a wonderful asset to our club. And we are excited to have our 'snowbirds' back for the summer. Eight of us really enjoyed attending the county picnic that was recently held at Obed River Park.

Our Hamblen County FCE participated in projects that help our community and we have fun.

Throughout the year we have a Flower Show, a dairy recipe contest, and a cultural arts review which is really fun. If you purchased an outfit for a really good price or perhaps someone gave it to you, you model it and maybe win a blue ribbon. If you made something, it may go to the Fair and you win another ribbon. If you like parties, we go to the nursing home and have a St.

Patrick's Day and a Fourth of July party with them.

Sadly, though, this year we missed seeing our friends in the nursing home because of Covid.

With the dues we collect, we are able to donate to our local food banks. We participate in Keep

Hamblen Healthy walks, give Valentines for Vets, use loyalty cards for schools, and donate to 4H

scholarships. A few of our members sew and this year we have made about 4,000 face masks,

40 mastectomy bags, 12 quilts for Quilts of Valor, and pillowcases for Camp Hugs.

We take pride in all the things we do for the environment. We all recycle, plant trees and bushes, and grow vegetables in our yards. We recycle our clothing by donating to our churches, KARM, and Goodwill.

Thankfully, we were able to start our club meetings in April this year and had our Flower Show in May. It's always a pleasure to see all the beautiful flowers. We learn something at all our meetings. It's a privilege to belong to such a worthwhile organization.

Meigs County FCE

We want to brag about our Ten Mile FCE Club. These have been some busy ladies this past year, even with the pandemic. Working separately and later in small groups this club was able to complete many projects. They made and collected crocheted hats, made pillowcases they stuffed with pillows and denim tote bags for foster kids. For babies going into foster care they made baby quilts. They also worked to sort clothing that was donated to the Children's Advocacy Center. Finally, they made 60 pairs of curtains for Camp Livingstones, a Christian teen camp on Star Mountain. The Decatur Club was invited to go with them to Camp Livingstone in May, for a brunch, program and a tour of one of their cabins. We were delighted to meet this year's counselors as they prepared for this year's camp. It was a very inspirational event! Special thanks to Carol Baker for sharing this news.



Join us on July 20th from 10-12 for cast iron cooking, tour of FCE website with Q&A, plus much more.

Please register for this event with your county agent.

Cultural Arts Day



Do you have a PHD- Project Half Done? It's time to get busy and enter your projects in your County FCE Club Cultural Arts Show!

2021 Members who have paid their dues can enter items you have finished since your county show in 2019 in the Cultural Arts Contest. If you win first or second place in your county, your item can be exhibited at the district meeting in September. Be sure the tag you make for the county show stays with your item for the district. Please mail your record of county winners to Caroline Bales by September 1, 2021.

Caroline Bales, Cultural Arts Chair
Carter County
865-414-2438
carolinegbales@gmail.com



Unmask
FCE
Stories

November 14 - 17, 2021
Embassy Suites - Cool Springs

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/tafce/Documents/ConferenceMaterials/2021ConferenceRegistration6-25.pdf>

Dates to Remember

July 1: Best of the Best—county sends application to Region VP of Public Policy, Sharon Clapp

July 1: FCL application for Fall FCL training due to Region VP of Public Policy, Sharon Clapp

July 1: 1 Creative Writing – county or individual member sends entries to Region Education Chair, Carolyn Thomas

July 20th: Camp –a -Long

July 29 – August 1: FCE is Alive in 2021. Zoom Conference. For details go to: NAFCE.org

Aug. 1: FCL applications for Spring FCL training due to Region VP of Policy, Sharon Clapp

Aug 17: Camp –a -Long

August 25-26 FCL Class Training, Lebanon, Comfort Suites

Aug 26: FCE Day at Appalachian Fair, Gray, TN

Remembrance

We would like to remember the ones we have lost.

Deanna Bertrum - Cumberland County

Donna Davis - Cumberland County

ATTENTION COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENTS!

I hope everyone has enjoyed our first edition of The Messenger. We want to have as much news as we can share in our next edition. Please send me your news or updates about what is going on in your county clubs. I would be thrilled to hear something from each county in our region.

If you have lost members through death please share that too. We will post it in our remembrance section. There may be friends who would like to know about their passing.

Contact me at patking423@gmail.com

Thank you for your help at making The Messenger a success.

Pat King
Meigs County
Eastern Region