

# *The Messenger*

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN REGION FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## ***Greetings from your President***

by Cindy Mishtal, TAFCE Eastern Region President

Happy Fall Y'all. I am so thankful that the weather will be cooling off soon.

Thank you to those of you who spent the day with us at Fall Conference in McMinn County on Monday, September 18, 2023. I would like to thank our two TAFCE State Officers for attending; Gloria Fisher, Eastern Region TAFCE State President and Crystal Holt, Central Region TAFCE State IT. It was a pleasure to share our day with them.

What an amazing day we all had. Thank you, Leslie Sharpe did an outstanding job and worked very hard to make our day a successful one. We had activities to participate in which included alcohol ink demonstration, making a ribbon tree, candle making and painting different craft items. There was also was a puzzle table. I sat down and met two sweet ladies who had a hard time leaving it uncompleted. We also had a silent auction with many beautiful items. Ladies were able to enjoy coffee, chia tea and breakfast snacks.

The Fashion Revue had more items entered than it did last year. Thank you, Sharon Clapp for your dedication and hard work.

Tammy Halliburton did an amazing job on her first Cultural Arts. We had many entered which makes me think the judges must had a tough time choosing winners. Thank you Tammy for your dedication and hard work.

Betty Beene was honor with the People's Choice Ribbon on her gorgeous needlepoint "How Great Thou Art."



## ***What's New***

### **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

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### **COUNTY NEWS**

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### **2023 WINNERS**

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### **2023 FCE LEADERSHIP DAY**



## ***Greetings from your President cont.***

I hope that you are planning to attend TAFCE State Conference on Sunday, November 12 thru Wednesday, November 15, 2023. I am looking forward to Spreading My Wings for FCE.

Remember to mark your calendar for Leadership Day on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 9 a.m. EST at the First Baptist Church (Family Life Center) 317 Parkway, Sevierville. The Theme is Sharpen Your FCE IQ. Registration forms were handed out at Fall Conference and also emailed to the County Council Presidents. Please be respectful of the deadline: November 6th.

See you all at our TAFCE State Conference on November 12th at the MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center, 1901 Meadowview Parkway, Kingsport.



## ***News from the VP of Public Policy***

by Ella Parker

The second FCL (Family Community Leadership) class for 2023 was held August 19 and 20th at Lebanon, TN. There were 2 students from the Eastern Region who attended, they were Robin McGowan from McMinn County and Pat King from Meigs County. There were many varied topics covered: Roberts Rules, Parliamentary Procedures, Volunteerism, Abuse, and PowerPoint presentations to name just a few. Participants in this class will receive 15 hours credit toward the 30 hours needed to achieve "National Certified Leader" status. This qualified them to be co-teachers in various FCE classes. To become "National Certified Teacher" there is an additional 60-hour requirement, this level allows them to be the Lead Teacher in these Classes. It was a busy two days, but much was learned that will assist not just in FCE but also in the Communities.



Pat King is on the right in the first row and Robin McGowan is on the far right



## *Notes from the Bean Counter*

by Marti Agler, TAFCE Eastern Region Treasurer

As this is being written, we just enjoyed the FCE Day at the Tennessee Valley Fair. A good time for all who attended, if you did not, remember it for your 2024 calendar. It is definitely worth a morning.

As soon as that finished, we ready our cars to go to Athens for our new and (hopefully) improved Fall Conference. It is such a pleasure to see all the skills displayed by our members at this Regional Cultural Arts and Fashion Review Competitions. By the time you read this, we will know if our changed format and activities was a better fit for you. Our goal, as your Regional Board, is to plan and execute the events and activities you want and need for your clubs and councils.

Please make it a point to respond when there is a survey for our Region. Only when you tell us will we know what to do for your interests and needs. Our activities should support our mission of educating ourselves to educate our families and communities in a manner that engages you.

For the first time this year, we have asked that you indicate your Council Officers on your County Member Roster submitted with your dues. This is an effort to reduce the additional effort normally required for this separate reporting of that information and make certain we have the very best information for your county. You matter and being able to contact you is paramount! Thank you for your cooperation with this important modification to your County Roster.

# #FallVibes

## *Notes from the Bean Counter*

*cont.*

We send a big thank you to all members, clubs and councils who have cooperated with the deadlines for dues reporting and event registrations. These dates are important for reporting dues to the state organization and, in the case of events, reserving the correct number of meals, seats, materials, etc. Your assistance in being respectful of these due dates is of great value to all your volunteer board members.

Not least, as President of the Sevier County Council, I am excited to encourage each of you to attend the Leadership Day on November 28 in Sevier County. Our members have worked hard for this entire year to make this a fun, rewarding event. I am so lucky to be associated with these hardworking, smart women! Our Agent Advisors have spent much time developing vibrant, educational sessions. You will leave this day with hands-on information to help you lead your clubs and councils. Sevier County is more than just a place for vacations, it is a place to improve ourselves in FCE!



## ***News from Cultural Arts***

by Tammy Haliburton

It's Fall in the Eastern Region Ya'll  
I love being around the Ladies in the region. We are such a fun group. The Fall Conference was great this year.

Thanks to all agents and members who help in the intake, displaying, and aiding in judging of the Cultural Arts. There were over 250 items registered. Eastern Region members are so crafty, talented, and smart. I am so excited to see the items you make for 2024.

There will be new categories added to Cultural Arts for 2024. The powers above are getting the new categories posted on the TAFCE website. The website address is [tafce.tennessee.edu](http://tafce.tennessee.edu). Click on the three dots on the right, click members, then click on forms. Under the tab Cultural Arts will be a list of all forms. Getting the new forms is crucial! want to make sure all items are placed in the correct category.

I am available to take your call, text, and emails for any questions.

I hope to see you all at the Leadership Conference, November 28th in Sevierville.

Happy Crafting!



## ***Update from VP of Programs***

by Leslie Sharpe

Happy Fall Y'all!

So good to see so many FCE friends at the Eastern Region fall conference "Shades of September." I hope everyone had a wonderful time!

It sure has been a busy year with planning for the TAFCE State Conference, "Spread Your Wings with FCE." I am excited that so many members are and have been busy making crafts to sell in the Flutter Buy Gift Shop. Your hard work and the time put into it are very much appreciated! Way to go! I can't wait to see all that has been done.

There are many committees involved in making this state conference a remarkable success. I congratulate them for their hard work and enthusiasm. This is our year to shine! The last conference that the Eastern Region TAFCE was to sponsor was cancelled due to Covid.

It's going to be wonderful to get together with all our FCE friends from across the entire state of Tennessee. I am looking forward to giving them a warm East Tennessee welcome. Of course, all of you are special to me and I hope that all that can will come and join in the fun at the state conference, November 12-15, Kingsport, TN.

See you there!!



## ***NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES***

### **ANDERSON COUNTY**

Anderson County Family Communications and Education (FCE) Clubs, met for their Annual Fall Fling on September 7 at the Community Center in Clinton.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the projects and volunteer work of the year, welcome new members, renew old friendships, elect county officers and the Soup Queen of the Year, and enjoy a program presented by Laura Brit and Smoky Mountain Service Dog, Winston.

County Club president, Judy Cohan, called the meeting to order with a devotion of the club's creed and the song "God Bless America" led by Joyce Beets, song leader.

Cohan made announcements and thanked members for their participation and success at this year's fair. She asked volunteers to make cookies for the upcoming Farm Day and to save cola bottle caps to be donated to a local school for the purpose of having a bench made.

Senior Day with free admission will be September 12 at the upcoming TVA Fair. County Agent, Patricia Paden, will provide free parking passes to all who request one. Free books donated by Marilyn Parsons were available.

There is one scholarship open to anyone who wants to attend the Regional FCE Conference in November. Sharon Clapp has the information.

Vicki Long was elected as county president, Judy Cohan as vice-president, Deborah Carroll as treasurer, and Joyce Beets-song leader.

Lunch and the Best Soup Contest began with a blessing by Bobby Griffin. Four members who entered soups were: Ruby Hutchenson, Bobby Griffin, Mary Foust and Denise Sisson. After bowls were empty and bellies were full, members voted.

Denise Sisson was elected 1st place Queen of Soups-\$10 prize. Mary Foust and Bobby Griffin were tied for 2nd place--\$4.50 each, and Ruby Hutchenson was 3rd for \$8.

In keeping with a club goal of continuing education, the program for the day was an amazing presentation by Laura Birt, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs Organization and ambassador service dog, Winston. Brit's presentation was possibly the best program seen by the clubs this year. (See more about Winston's amazing abilities in a separate article).

Brit spoke about SMSDO providing its history, goals, achievements, and allowing Winston to demonstrate many of his skills. FCE members were so touched by Brit and Winston they passed a hat for donations to this outstanding pair.

Everyone in Anderson County is welcome to join FCE. If you enjoy fellowship, fun, and food, while being of service to your community, this is the club for you. Yearly fees are \$20. Contact Vicki Long 865 705 3888 or e mail [blong4875@comcast.net](mailto:blong4875@comcast.net) for more information

BY MARTHA ROSE WOODWARD



PHOTO BY DANYEAL DANIELS

## ***NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES CONT.***

### **ANDERSON COUNTY CONT.**

Laura Brit, Director of Community Events for Smoky Mountain Service Dogs, and three year old, black lab Winston, gave an outstanding presentation for FCE Fall Fling held September 7.

Winston won everyone's heart with his skills and personality.

Brit, a retired lawyer who has volunteered with SMSD for 8 years, informed the group of the SMSD's history as well as current projects. SMSD was started in 2010 and was approved as a 501 3C organization in 2013. They purchase, raise, train, and match service dogs to worthy veterans. They are accredited and approved by ADA and Assistance Dogs International. The main campus is located at 110 Tooweka Circle, Loudon, Tennessee, phone 865 408 3070.

The mission as stated is "To enhance the physical and psychological quality of life for veterans with disabilities by providing custom-trained, mobility-assistance service dogs at no cost to the veterans." This includes veterinary bills and supplies. The government will pay benefits for supplies and other needs of certified dogs under the ADA law.

Brit explained the difference from a certified/accredited service dog and an emotional support animal. Service dogs work with people who have severe disabilities and can join their partner on all types of travel providing physical assistance and companionship.



Each dog is purchased or received through donations at age 8 weeks. SMSDO uses mostly labs as this breed is best around children and in public. Puppies are raised by trained handlers for the first 10 months of life. They are sent to a fully equipped kennel once a week for training by professionals who use positive reinforcement which includes snacks and treats. By their 11th month each dog is living in a kennel full-time. Dogs can be sent for family visits on weekends.

Outdoor activities and exercise are stressed. Volunteers are always needed to help raise puppies, give dogs a walk, provide play time, or practice skills. There are only 4 paid employees at SMSD with 95% of donations being spent on the dogs and their needs. Veterans and their families who are interested in receiving a service dog, need to apply. Trainers do everything they can to match the personality of the dog to the veteran. When both are ready, there is a ceremony known as "Passing of the leash," as the dog is handed over to become a life-long companion for the veteran and the family. During the presentation Winston was called on to perform many of his 40 cues. He happily picked up a phone and returned it, picked up a thin credit card, moved on the left and then on the right, took a sock off a foot, found a lost hat, helped Brit with clothing, carried a small bag, opened a door, and more. He will respond to smells or smoke as well as loud or unusual sounds or noises. He will react if he believes the veteran is in trouble.

SMSD is open for volunteers who will raise puppies, help with socialization and exercise, or provide foster care for a dog in waiting. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information contact:  
[www.smokyoutainservicedogs.org](http://www.smokyoutainservicedogs.org) or phone 865 408 3070.

BY MARTHA ROSE WOODWARD

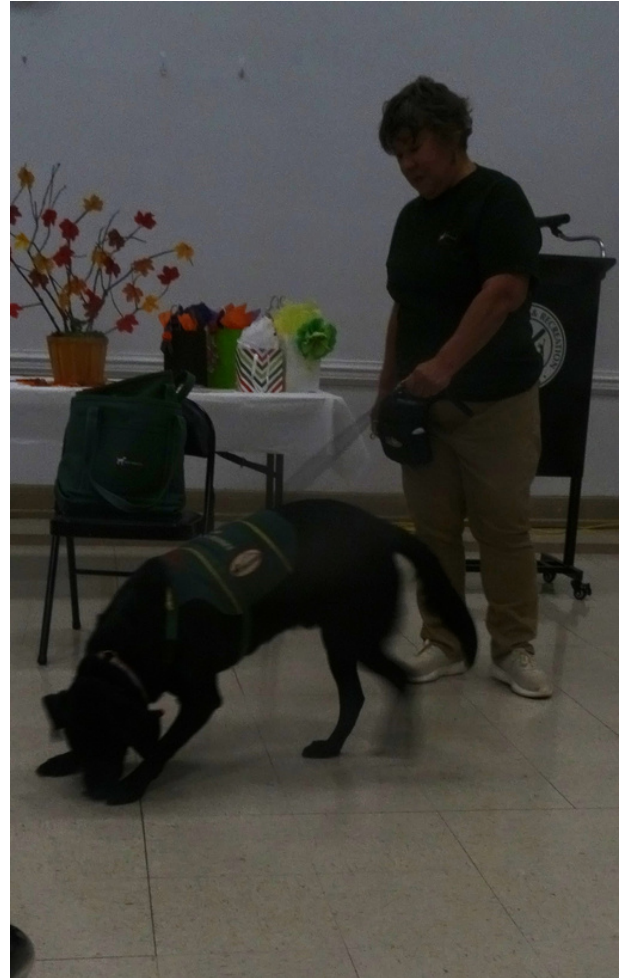
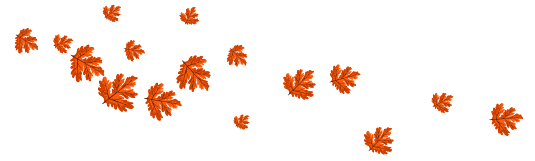
**ANDERSON COUNTY  
CONT.**



Photo by Danyeal Daniels  
Laura Brit and Service Dog Winston were  
guest speakers at FCE Club.



Photo with Winston in jacket with yellow  
flag from SMSD



Winston responds to 40 cues.





## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

In the picture below, is where 6 Lake Tansi FCE members participated in Senior Olympics for Chair Volleyball. They won undefeated.

Row 1: Jacquie Mc Grady  
Row 2: Martha Waddell Linda Ross, Joyce Ernst, Lynne Srebnik, Karen Turek



## MEIGS COUNTY

The leaves are falling and there is a chill in the air! Pumpkins abound everywhere. Fall has arrived! Meigs County will be having their Fall Achievement Day soon and we look forward to our clubs getting together and sharing news of what we're doing in our communities. We have been busy making gifts for the state conference gift shop. We worked hard in our county fair and enjoyed a day at the fall conference with Eastern Region in McMinn County. We are planning our next fund-raising project for our scholarship fund.

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE  
STATE CONFERENCE!

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

On a beautiful Monday morning in August, the Sullivan County FCE members came together for their annual picnic and tour. It was held at the historic Sycamore Shoals state park in Elizabethton. 14 members and 2 guests were in attendance. The park is well known for its Liberty celebration and it is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the battle of King's Mountain.

Our ladies are looking forward to the state convention which will convene in our upper East Tennessee area. We are sure you will enjoy our part of the state.

Jacquie Dishner



### The Muster of the Overmountain Men at Sycamore Shoals...

The grounds upon which you now stand is the very site where over 1,000 men gathered to protect their homes once again! Talbot's sons were also among these men. On September 25, 1780, the Overmountain Men assembled here at Sycamore Shoals under the leadership of Colonel William Campbell, Colonel Isaac Shelby, and Lieutenant-Colonel John Sevier.

The Loyalist Army led by British Major Patrick Ferguson threatened to cross over the mountains and destroy the settler's homes. Unwilling to wait for the attack, the brave frontiersmen took the fight to the Loyalist Army.

The men traveled through the unforgiving mountain conditions and found Ferguson and his men at King's Mountain in South Carolina. In a battle that lasted little more than one hour, the courageous frontier militia was victorious! This battle was a decisive Patriot victory which helped win the American Revolution.





The board for the 2023 TAFCE State Conference has chosen Shades of Grace as the charity to support this year.

This is the ministry of Shades of Grace UMC Church in Kingsport that serves the needy and homeless in the area by providing hot meals, fresh clothing, laundry and shower facilities, and even help provide funerals when needed. This is just to name a few of the many services they provide. We will hear more about what they do during the conference.

To help supply items to aid in this ministry, we will be collecting small food items like: Small canned foods with a pop top, ie beanie wienies, pork and beans, Vienna Sausages, fruit and vegetables, plastic cup fruits and apple sauce. In addition, cereal bars, bags of nuts, small packages of cheese and peanut butter crackers, jerky. Anything nutritious that can be placed in a backpack.

In addition, they can always use new men's underwear & socks and new, or in good condition, used gloves, knit hats, men's jeans (sizes 28 to 34), men's tennis/walking shoes (all sizes), and blankets.

And of course, we hope to take up a generous monetary donation to support their cause.



Winners for the FCE 2022 Environmental Awards for Eastern Region were presented at the Eastern Region Fall Conference. The winners are:

**First Place - Well Springs Club of Campbell County**

**"Second Chance Project"**

**Members collected over 65 extra large bags of clothing, towels, sheets and blankets and were given to the needy in their community. Also they found new homes for furniture, appliances and books and others. "Second Chance is about turning waste into value". But this endeavor is not just for the environment, it is also a much appreciated service to their community.**

**Second Place - Big Ridge Club of Union County.**

**Members planted many native trees, wild flowers for butterflies and bees, sunflowers for birds and gardens for fruits & vegetables. They also recycled plastics and cans and magazines.**

**Third Place - Callie Cobb Club of Monroe County**

**Members collected prescription bottles, they removed labels and cleaned them, then donated them to their local animal shelter who had a desperate need for them to send medications home with adopted animals. This also kept them out of the landfill.**

The purpose of the Environmental program is to encourage all clubs to become active in their community in areas of recycling, hazardous waste collections, tree and flower planting, trash pick up, conservation, etc. Be creative and see what your club can do as a project for 2024!



## Fashion Revue Winners

Thank you to all the participants in the 2023 Fashion Revue. I received 25 items from seven counties, (Sullivan, Greene, Sevier, Hawkins, Anderson, Jefferson, and Bledsoe) in eight categories with fifteen participants. We had no entries in categories 1-6, 10, and 14. Please forgive me for not having a display area or modeling of items. We will definitely have one at the Fall Conference next year. If you enjoy sewing for anyone, please enter categories 1-6 in your county and send or bring to Fall Conference next year.

### Winners

#### Category 7- Recycled Garment

1st Place-Dee Shepard, Jefferson County  
2nd Place- Nancy Akins, Bledsoe County

#### Category 8- Wardrobe Accessory

1st Place-Jane Stapleton, Jefferson County  
2nd Place- Dee Shepard, Jefferson County

#### Category 9-Decorative Sweat Wear

1st Place -Dee Shepard, Jefferson County  
2nd Place -Jane Stapleton, Jefferson County

#### Category 11- Embellished Accessories

1st Place- Sharon Clark, Greene County

#### Category 12- Aprons (constructed or purchased)

1st Place- Sharon Clark, Greene County  
2nd Place- Debra Carroll, Anderson County

#### Category 13- Tie Dye (any)

1st Place- Madeline Nichols, Sullivan County  
2nd Place- Elizabeth Phillips, Sullivan County

#### Category 15- My Best Fashion Purchase (casual)

1st Place- Shirley Watson, Hawkins County  
2nd Place- Janice Reeves, Hawkins County

#### Category 16- My Best Fashion Purchase (Better Dress)

1st Place- Kay Baker, Sullivan County  
2nd Place- Dee Shepard, Jefferson County



Congratulations to everyone!  
Fashion Revue Chair  
Sharon Clapp

## EASTERN REGION CREATIVE WRITING WINNERS 2023

### Short Stories

1st Place- Perry Riden, McMinn County  
2nd Place- Cynthia Mishtal, McMinn County

### Children's Stories

1st Place- Nancy Martin, Campbell County  
2nd Place- Perry Riden, McMinn County

### Essays

1st Place- Leslie Sharpe, Union County  
2nd Place- Betty Beene, Bledsoe County

### Poetry

1st Place- Jean Cross, Bradley County  
2nd Place- Barbara Binns, Bledsoe County

### Miscellaneous

1st Place- Barbara Binns, Bledsoe County  
2nd Place- Perry Riden, McMinn County







## 2023 FCE LEADERSHIP DAY

### ***SHARPEN YOUR FCE IQ***

**NOVEMBER 28**  
REGISTRATION 9AM EST  
CONFERENCE 10AM  
COST-\$16

**FIRM DEADLINE  
NOV.6**

- MEET & GREET
- DOOR PRIZES
- GIFTS FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS
- LUNCH BY SEVIER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY DEPARTMENT
- TOPICS INCLUDE
  - PREPARING FOR A LEADERSHIP ROLE
  - WHAT & WHY FCE
  - WHAT & WHY STATE PROJECTS
  - AND MORE

**Family Life Center Room of First Baptist Church, 317 Parkway,  
Sevierville, TN 37862**



**RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK BY NOVEMBER 6, 2023**  
**PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION!**

COUNTY:\_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK IF AGENT\_\_\_\_

BEST CONTACT INFO:\_\_\_\_\_

MEAL CHOICES: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE) ALL MEALS COME WITH DESSERT

☐ CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT W/PASTA SALAD

☐ HAM & TURKEY HOAGIE W/PASTA SALAD

☐ SALAD W/PASTA SALAD

ENCLOSE YOUR **CHECK FOR \$16.00** FOR CONFERENCE AND LUNCH

MAIL TO  
MARTI AGLER, TREASURER  
TAFCE EASTERN REGION  
1300 POPLAR COURT  
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **TAFCE EASTERN REGION**



November 1, 2023  
November 12-15, 2023  
November 28, 2023

Eastern Region Grant Program  
TAFCE State Conference  
Leadership Day



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.