

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

SEPTEMBER

- All Character Counts Essay and Artwork Contest
Collect 2008 Dues-Membership Drive
National Literacy Month
- 1 **All County Associations' List of Officers and Committees for 2008 should be sent to State President**
- 10 10:00 AM Executive & Education Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office
- 15 Deadline for MDFCE Conference
- 27-29 ACWW Area Meeting hosted by CWC, Springfield, IL

OCTOBER

- 7-13 FCE Week
- 15 Rural Women Day
- 16-17 MD FCE Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Laurel, MD

NOVEMBER

- 1 **LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING** deadline for items to Editor
Membership Dues to Barbara Perry, Membership Chair
- 5 10:00AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office

DECEMBER

- 1 **State Dues and Membership Forms to NAFCE**
- 3 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office
- 31 **Counties' Annual reports due Vice President of Program; County Presidents' Reports due to President; Membership Appreciation Award due Vice President for Program**

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MDFCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Don't forget to register for the Maryland FCE conference to be held at the Holiday Inn in Laurel, MD on Oct 16th - 17th.

Character Counts Contest for 2007

Respect, the second pillar of character, is this year's focus. Contact your schools (county presidents have the information) and encourage them to participate in the FCE essay and artwork contest from September 1 to December 1, 2007. Winning entries should be sent to Evelyn Ziegler by February 1, 2008.

MDFCE Web Site is www.mdafce.org

Send newsletters, calendars and information to Marie Moeller at mariemoeller@yahoo.com

Newsletter Deadline: November 1

Send all articles, Bulletin Board items, address changes and trivia for the newsletter to: Jean Purich, 15500 Gallaudet Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20905-4196 or email at jcpurich@cs.com.

FCE IS THE GOOD LIFE !

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FCE IS THE GOOD LIFE! was the theme of the 2007 National FCE Annual Conference. This event was very well planned and a lot of time and effort went into preparing and presenting the programs.

My participation started on Wednesday with FCL Day. The program subjects were Parliamentary Procedure, Dreaming About A Better World (public policy), Resolving Community Issues, Teaching Techniques and Bonding. Thursday was President's Day. Many important issues were discussed including the budget, by-laws, the possibility of cutting the number of regions, and not putting the forms in the program book but on the web. It was interesting to visit with presidents of other states and learn about their successful programs.

On Friday, the general session started. The keynote speaker was a gentleman from Girls and Boys Town. He spoke about the work being done by the organization. The talk was very informative and a collection was taken up to benefit the children in these programs. In addition, an officer from the Nebraska State Patrol gave an eye-opening talk on methamphetamine labs and addictions.

Our Maryland FCE did very well on the awards. We won First Prize on our entry "Books - The Other Channel". This prize was \$700.00 for our treasury. We also won Third Place for our Display Board on the same topic. This prize was \$100.00. Our thanks to Judy Pugh and others who helped on these projects.

There were three candidates for the office of National Vice President for Program and Judy Fullmer was elected.

The evening speaker was a photographer from National Geographic Magazine.

Saturday and Sunday work sessions were on topics such as:

- Songs our children and grandchildren listen to
- Films good and bad
- Internet Safety
- Cyberbullying
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Changing the world with corn

- How to put on a puppet show about Character Counts
- Using scarves to enhance your appearance

The State Luncheon is always successful. Our table had a lighthouse and sea theme and was appreciated by the attendees.

We should consider ourselves fortunate to belong to an organization whose board works hard to keep us informed on so many important issues and provides us with the means to prepare and present these programs to our constituents.

The 2008 National Conference will be held on July 18, 19, 20, in Burlington, Vermont. Plan now to attend, this will be a very interesting, educational and fun experience.

Evelyn Ziegler, Maryland FCE President
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410-465-3587

Annual Conference Highlights

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

9:00 AM Conference opens with keynote speaker from the office of the city of Laurel speaking on economic development.
10:45AM Business Meeting
Election of Officers
Noon Lunch
12:50 PM " Crazy Quilts" Mickie Woodward
1:50 PM Business Meeting Reconvenes
2:15 PM TBA
2:45 PM TBA
3:30 PM County President's reports
4:30 PM Craft Workshop: "Scarves-The New Old In-thing" with Evelyn Ziegler, Ann Fishell, Rusty Gardiner, Thelma Gore (**EVERYONE BRING A LONG AND A SQAURE SCARF.**)
6 PM Dinner and Entertainment
The New Dimensions

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

7 AM Breakfast
8 AM "Highway Safety Commission"
9:45 AM "
10:15 AM TBA
11:00 AM TBA
Noon Lunch
1:30 PM "

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM

BOOKS--To Be Continued

Maryland FCE will continue to collect new children's book for our "Books--The Other Channel" project. At our annual meeting last year we set a goal of collecting 1,000 books by March 2007. The books were to be labeled and given to Maryland families either directly or through organizations. WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL by collecting and distributing over 1,500 books! This project won two National FCE awards. Thank you for making our program successful.

We will continue collecting and giving away books because the project is a huge step in the right direction. Books can be brought to the Annual conference. Please look for bargain books and collect them at each meeting. Perhaps each of you could purchase books and bring them to your Christmas party instead of exchanging gifts.

Our award winning display is available for your county and community events. It features a TV screen with a picture of a mom and kids reading a book. The mom is my daughter-in-law, Kara, and grandchildren, David, age 3, and LeeAnn, age 1. Of course they are beautiful (smile). The display illustrates our goals and successes, too. It is a lightweight, trifold poster and is easy to ship and carry. Please let me know when you need it. Allow two weeks for shipping.

Again, many thanks for making our "Books--The Other Channel" a big success.

Judy Pugh, Vice President for Program
fdjrpugh@aol.com
410-398-4536

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

Governor. O'Malley is lauded on Family Issues, but his action on the deficit will be tested in the months ahead. Advocates for lower and middle income families say he has been true to his word: supporting a college tuition freeze and making Maryland the first in the nation to require that state contractors pay their workers a "living wage".

The state is facing a budget shortfall in 2008 of nearly \$1.5 billion, which may require tax

increases. Lawmakers are pushing the Governor to put the burden on higher income earners and corporations. His inherited budget shortfall slows the progress on other issues, such as, health care and workforce training. A 1% increase in the MD sales tax could occur and yield about \$700 million. Also a tax on health clubs is a consideration.

Progressive Maryland, a group that lobbies on the behalf of low and middle-income families is opposed to any tax increase. The group said he (Governor O'Malley) delivered on his promises so far.

Marie Moeller, Vice-Pres. For Public Policy
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301-292-2365

IN AND AROUND MARYLAND

ALLEGANY COUNTY

The Allegany County Fall Luncheon will be at Penn Alps Restaurant on Monday, October 8, 2007. At 10 AM there will be a trip to an Alpaca Farm. The luncheon, auction and business meeting will begin at noon (12 PM). After the program everyone can tour the buildings and craft shop.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 28, 2007. We have to have a head count. My address is:

Melba Knotts
12812 McMullen Highway
Cumberland, MD 21502-5154
knotts@atlanticbb.net

Directions: Located just east of Grantsville, Maryland on Alt. 40 (The Old National Pike). If traveling west on I-68, use exit 22, turn right, at stop light turn left, continuing west on US 40 about two miles. Penn Alps is on the right side of the road and has a large parking lot. There is a small state park next to Penn Alps with a nice shaded picnic area. If you enter Grantsville, you have gone too far. If traveling east on I-68, use Exit 19, turn left, then right in Grantsville on US 40 continue east about one mile.

Information about Penn Alps

Penn Alps Restaurant and Craft Shop are housed in the last log hospitality house on the National Pike still serving the traveler. It is

