

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**

Inside.....

Calendar	1
From The President	2
Annual Conference Highlights	2
News from the VP for Program	3
Public Policy Notes	3
In and Around Maryland	3
Directions to Conference	4
ACWW REPORT	5
Do Not Delay - Pay Today	6
What Does FCE Do For Me?	6
Membership Form	7
The Whole Grain Stamp	8

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
zieglers@comcast.net
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
mariemoeller@yahoo.com
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

situated between a 1797 gristmill and a historic stone arch bridge. Three of its six dining rooms were once part of the log stagecoach stop, Little Crossings Inn.

Spruce Forest Artisan Village provides studio space for artisans. Artisans work in various media, including: bird carving, basket making, handloom weaving, and hand-thrown pottery, stained glass art, hand-forged iron, hand-crafted teddy bears, and hand-crafted natural soaps. Penn Alps website is www.pennalps.com.

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County celebrated 85 years of continuous FCE (homemakers) membership with a luncheon at the Best Western Hotel in Westminster.

Congratulations to Kathryn Frock on being chosen Maryland "Heart of FCE" winner.

FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick County FCE members will be giving out books to children at the Great Fredrick Fair the week of September 17. Demonstrations will be given by various members at scheduled times during the week and also promote FCE.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County had 4 booths at the Montgomery County Fair featuring The Linus Project, "Respecting the Flag-Supporting the Troops", "Tap or Bottle Water", and "Pedestrian Safety". We received 4 first place ribbons. We collected messages on postcards for the troops that will be included in boxes of goodies MCFCE will send to the troops.

Six members attended the National FCE meeting in Omaha Nebraska. Speakers included a National Geographic photographer, spokesman from Girls and Boys Town and Charlotte Endorf author of the Plains Bound: Fragile Cargo about recollections of those on the Orphan Train.

Bulletin Board

Jean Bilsky is recovery from surgery; Gene Van Pelt is mending from a fall and stitches in her leg. (PG County)

Marie Moeller is moving to Calvert County. Her new address is:

10615 Fielder Court
Dunkirk MD 20754

Majorie Salatte had a hip replacement and Marian Whitman is recuperating from Lyme's disease. (AA County)

Don't Forget the Maryland FCE Annual Conference

It is not too late to register for the conference and we hope to see you there. Make your check to – **Maryland FCE**. Mail your check and form (in the last newsletter or on the web):

Mail your check and form to:

Alice Irwin (301) 372-8562

6112 Church Drive

Brandywine, MD 20613-9365

If you are staying Monday night (10/15), the Hotel stay will cost \$99 (plus tax) for the room. You **MUST** make your own hotel reservations for Monday, October 15. Mention the fact that you are attending the MD FCE Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 16th – 17th, 2007. The deadline for the extra room reservation is September 15, 2007.

Contact: Holiday Inn 15101 Sweitzer Lane

Laurel, MD 20707

Phone – 301-776-5300

Fax – 301-776-8164

Directions:

Travel Route 70 or 32 East to Route 29 South. Take the Route 198 (toward Laurel) exit. Make a left at the first traffic light onto Route 198 East. Go through 3 more lights and at the fourth (4th) light turn right onto Sweitzer Lane. Go past the Exxon Station and turn left into the parking lot of the Holiday Inn.

From the North:

Travel Route 95 South to the Route 198 (Burtonsville) West exit. After leaving the exit ramp go immediately to the left lane and then into the left turn lane; turn left onto Sweitzer Lane. Go past the Exxon Station and turn left into the parking lot of the Holiday Inn.

From the South

If traveling Route 97 North take the BWI parkway west to Route 198 West. Continue on Route 198

until you pass Interstate 95 and then at the next light turn left onto Sweitzer Lane. Go past the Exxon Station and turn left into the parking lot of the Holiday Inn. If traveling on Route 95 North, exit at Route 198 West (Burtonsville), turn left at the next light onto Sweitzer Lane. Follow directions from the Exxon Station.

ACWW REPORT

33 World Crises Imperil Children

The United National Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched its Humanitarian Action report 2007, calling on donors to provide 635 million dollars to aid children and women in 33 emergencies ranging from Darfur to Sudan, which accounts for nearly one-fifth of the appeal and to Haiti, Eritrea, and the Central African Republic.

UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman said, "Emergencies, both natural disasters and new or protracted conflicts, continue to take a toll on the lives of women and children around the world. Life-saving activities are essential for those children in peril".

In the Darfur region, torn by conflict between Sudanese Government forces, allied militias and rebel groups, the lives of 4 million people, including 1.8 million children, have been disrupted. Children account for more than half of the 2.5 million-plus people forced from their homes.

Children struggle to survive elsewhere. Some in Columbia are forced from their homes by violence or recruited to fight; high HIV/AIDS rates mean Zambian children live in one of the world's poorest nation. Many of Chad's children have fled fighting in neighboring countries or their own.

UNICEF Emergency Programs Director Dan Toll said, "Many of the crisis in which UNICEF operates are neglected because they are no longer considered as emergencies by the public".

"The Crisis for children does not end when the media coverage ends, whether a child lives in Darfur or Haiti. As long as a humanitarian situation exists for children, UNICEF will be assisting."

...and Thousand are Enlisted in Wars

France and UNICEF hosted an International conference in Paris on children involved in armed forces and armed groups, titled Let Us Free the Children of War. The conference brought together representatives from 58 countries and included former child soldiers and NGO (non-government organizations) leaders involved with their plight.

UNICEF's Ann Veneman said, "An estimated 250,000 children are involved in armed conflicts around the world. They are used as combatants, messengers, spies, porter, cooks, and girls in particular are forced to perform sexual services, depriving them of their rights and their childhood".

"We have a shared commitment to help children caught in the wars of adults and to protect, release and reintegrate child soldiers. We have made strides in bringing children from battlefields back to their communities but much remains to be done"

Fighting forces are recruiting and using child soldiers within Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

A new set of commitments and principles to end recruitment was adopted. The new guideline will compliment the political and legal mechanisms already in place in the UN Security Council, the International Criminal Court and other organizations trying to protect children from exploitation and violence.

Secretary-General Speaks Out

On March 8, International Women's Day, there was an address by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, who proposed that the General Assembly and the Security Councils address the issues of violence against women and children on a continuing basis.

(From the July-September 2007 issue of The Country Woman, the ACWW magazine)

THE WINNER IS:

Alice Irwin recruited a new member-Sharon Adamoyurka-for the 2007 membership. Now both of them are going to the 2007 MDAFCE Annual Conference for **FREE**. That's right free!

Just recruit a new member and your name and the new member's name will be entered into a drawing for free registration to the 2008 conference.

Do Not Delay – Pay Today!

September is back to scheduled activities and it is time for us to pay our FCE dues for 2008. All dues must be paid to club treasurers in September and forwarded to the county treasurers by October.

Every member is required to fill out a 2008 Membership Form, which is printed in this newsletter. Please tear it out and using black ink type or clearly print the information requested at the top of the page. Do not use abbreviations. Enter your 9 digit zip code. Your "Current Member I.D. #" is printed on your FCE membership card. If you are unable to locate the number, leave the space blank and I will fill it in from my records.

Fill in the appropriate dues. The Maryland dues are \$3.00 for individuals and seniors and \$6.00 for family memberships. The amount of dues for each county varies.

The last item – the Member Signature at the bottom of the page must be the signature of the individual named at the top of the page.

New Members

Note the box above the Member Signature line. Individuals who have never been affiliated with FCE should check this. At the bottom of the page add "recruited by" and give the name and address of the member who introduced the new member to FCE. The member will receive a gold star pin from National FCE.

SPECIAL PRIZE – Each new member and her recruiter's name will be placed in a drawing for full registration payment for the 2008 Maryland Annual Conference. The more members you recruit – the more chances you will have to go to the conference for free!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this article and for neatly and correctly filling out the 2008 Membership Form. Take the form and your check to your September meeting. If you will not be attending the meeting please mail them to your treasurer now. She will be so happy and YOU will have helped to make her day! We need to have all of our Maryland FCE members accounted for by September 30! If you have any questions please contact me: Barbara Perry, Membership Chairman 410-827-6716 or barbaraperry@friend.ly.net

WHAT DOES FCE DO FOR ME?

Your county, state and national organization is working hard to provide programs on a variety of subjects, from women's health to kid's music. There is something to interest all members of the organization. A list of all the Heath fire programs is available on the web at www.nafce.org. FCE works towards developing good character skills in both children and adults by partnering with The Josephson Institute of Ethics.

FCE has available programs and lessons plans for all the pillars. Do you know what they are? And do you know the FCE characters that go with the pillars? They are: Trustworthiness - Buzzee the Bee, Respect – Ichy the Parrot, Responsibility – Webster the Turtle, Fairness – Squeal the Mouse, Caring – Clarence the Dragon, and Citizenship – Micka the Mouse. Costumes for these characters are available from NAFCE headquarters. FCE has always been involved on a International level through CWC and ACWW. The need to be aware of and to do something about the needs of women and children throughout the world helps us to help those closer to home. Are you doing your part as an FCE member to attend the meetings, participate, organize events, market FCE, and volunteer?



2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

*****Type or Print Clearly*****

*****Do Not Abbreviate City, County, or State Street Names*****

Date _____ Current Member ID # _____ E-Mail _____

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Council _____ Club Name _____

Phone No. _____

Family Membership: (Please list) Spouse Name _____

Dependent Child(ren) _____

<i>Dues</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Senior (80+ years)</i>
National	\$ 16.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 12.80
State	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.00
Council/County/Parish	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.00
Club			
TOTAL			

Sign and send with total membership dues to Club Treasurer by September 30, 2007.

New Member (Never belonged to FCE before)

Member Signature _____
Must be original signature, copies will not be accepted

MISSION...To strengthen individuals, families, and communities through continuing education, developing leadership, and community action.