

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

All Month

Complete and mail all Annual Reports to State FCE by January 31

- 7 10:00AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel County Extension Office

FEBRUARY

All Month

Birthday Month, Collect (1 cent for each year of your age or just give a dollar so no one will know) & send to State FCE Treasurer

- 1 **LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING** deadline for items to Editor
- 4 10:00AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel County Extension Office

MARCH

All Month

Women's History Month

- 1 **Deadline for Heart of FCE, Spirit of FCL**
- 5 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting Anne Arundel County Extension Office

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GET READY FOR THE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Now is the time to register for the Region I and Region II meetings to be held in April 2008. Details on page 3.

Character Counts Contest

Two counties were able to place the essay and artwork contest in their schools. The state winner will be chosen in January.

MDFCE Web Site is www.mdafce.org

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

Newsletter Deadline: February 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 to jcpurich@cs.com

What is your special blessing for the Season?



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE WITH FCE was the theme of our Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn in Laurel, Maryland. This was a very successful conference. Our guest speakers were excellent as they talked about current topics. Karl Brendle, Director of the Community Planning & Business Services Department of the Mayor's Office of Laurel discussed the ramifications of BRAC and its effect on the economic face of Maryland. Peter Moe, Special Program Coordinator of the Maryland Highway Safety Office talked about Pedestrian Safety. We learned about the meaning of the various signals at the crosswalks. Edward Dowgiallo, V.P. Nano Solutions, Inc. taught about Alternative Energy. These are all topics that can affect our everyday life and we need to be knowledgeable about them.

It is always interesting to hear the reports of the officers and county presidents and learn what programs have been successful in the various localities.

We also learned all about Crazy Quilts, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, How to Enhance Our Appearance with the Use of Scarves, Banned or Challenged Books, Organ Donation, and the Spirit of Christmas. If you are interested in learning more about these programs contact me.

In the evening we were entertained by the "New Dimensions" with a musical program that included many familiar, patriotic and enjoyable songs.

Our thanks and gratitude go to Prince George's County for hosting this affair, to the Board members for planning and participating in the program, to the speakers who shared their knowledge with us, to all of you who volunteered in various jobs, and to the attendees for supporting this conference. We look forward to next year at Sandy Cove.

We hope you are continuing to promote the Character Counts program. Send your winning entries to me by January 1

We still have openings on our State Board for the Office of President Elect, Secretary, and RDC Chairman. We are hoping some of you will answer our call for help.

May you and your families enjoy a holy, healthy and happy holiday season.

Evelyn Ziegler, MAFCE President
410-465-3587
zieglers@comcast.net

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

We Really Do Listen to YOU!

Following each Annual Conference and Regional Meetings we tally the evaluations to help us plan for the future. At our October conference this year the following programs were ranked at the top: Organ Donation, Pedestrian Safety, and Crazy Quilts. But just to let you know all of our programs scored mostly "5s" (the highest) and "4s"! There were just a handful of "1s" (the lowest). The point is we take your comments very seriously. Even if you were unable to attend Annual Conference and fill out an evaluation we would LOVE to hear from you. Tell us what topics you would like to learn more about and let us know how things are going in your neck of the woods. In the meantime ask those members from your county who attended Annual Conference to set up some programs on the topics that were ranked highest.

Please let me know what programs you would like to have in your clubs and counties: fdjrpugh@aol.com or 410 398 4536.

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

Sandy Cove in 2008 Maryland FCE's 70th Birthday!

Cecil County FCE invites you to the Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East Maryland for the 2008 Maryland FCE Annual Conference to be held October 14 and 15, 2008. We hope you will also plan to stay the evening of October 13 (there may be a birthday party). There is lots to do in and around the town of North East, the head of the Chesapeake Bay: Day Basket Company, Eagle's Nest Orchard, Elk Neck

State Park, lots of antique and boutique shopping and yummy places for snacks or lunch to name a few.

If you have never been to Sandy Cove you are in for a real treat! We overheard someone say it's like being on a cruise without having to board a ship. Those of you who have been to College Days or other FCE meetings know how wonderful the facility is.

Mark your calendar--you won't want to miss Maryland FCE Annual Conference in 2008!

Judy Pugh
410-398-4536 or fdjrpugh@aol.com

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

In a special session called by Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) to fix Maryland's budget, supporters and opponents of slot machine gambling clashed Friday, November 3 in Annapolis. Supporters said slots are necessary for Maryland's horse racing industry to survive when neighboring states use gambling proceeds to subsidize purses. But opponents decried the potential social ills they say are associated with slots, including gambling addiction, increased crime and prostitution.

Legislation being pushed by O'Malley seeks to legalize slots at five locations, eventually yielding close to \$650 million a year for the state. The slots plan, which O'Malley has proposed putting to voters in a referendum next year, is the most controversial part of his revenue plan to address a budget shortfall next year of more than \$1.5 billion. Other O'Malley initiatives include raising the sales tax and overhauling the state's income tax brackets. O'Malley's legislation envisions slots parlors at locations in Baltimore and in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil and Worcester counties.

Environmentalists also testified Friday before a House committee considering legislation that would levy a fee on development to establish a dedicated, \$85 million-a-year funding source to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Miller unveiled a competing Senate bill Friday that would set up a similar trust fund to restore the bay and its tributaries. He said he would consider allocating as much as \$50 million from other taxes to fund the initiative.

Marie Moeller, Vice Pres. for Public Policy
mariemoeller@yahoo.com or 301-292-2365

TREASURERER'S REPORT

Copies of the treasury report are available from Louise Ediger, Treasurer
rlrediger@yahoo.com or 301-898-9945.

Family ChoicE Media Survey



At our MAFCE Annual Conference all County Presidents were given copies of the above survey and guidelines. We are reminding you to take these surveys (only six questions) out into your clubs and other community organizations to make parents and grandparents more aware of what their children and grandchildren are listening to and watching on the various forms of modern day media.

After these surveys have been completed, please return all survey sheets prior to March 1, 2008 to:

Judy Armitage
15107 Interlachen Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906
301-598-2668
judyarmitage@msn.com

The results will then be sent to National for further study.

IN AND AROUND MARYLAND

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

The Allegany County Christmas Tea will be Friday, December 7, 2007 at noon at the Cumberland Fair Grounds in the Multi-Purpose Building. We will have lots of finger foods to start with and then a few readings and some caroling. It will be a good way to start the Christmas season off.

We hope that 2008 is a good year for all the members of MDFCE.

