

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

## SEPTEMBER

- All CHARACTER COUNTS!<sup>®</sup> Essay & Artwork Contest - Respect
- Collect 2020 Dues - Membership Drive
- National Literacy Month
- 1 **All County Associations' List of Officers and Committees for 2020 due to State President**
- 9 10:00 AM Maryland FCE Board Meeting, Anne Arundel County Extension Office

## OCTOBER

- 13-19 National FCE Week
- 15 Rural Women's Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 20-26 CHARACTER COUNTS!<sup>®</sup> Week
- 21-22 Maryland FCE Annual Conference  
Best Western, Westminster, Maryland

## NOVEMBER

- 1 **LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING**  
deadline for items to Editor  
**County Membership Dues to State Membership Chairman**
- 4 10:00 AM Maryland FCE Board Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office
- 17-23 National Family Week

## DECEMBER

- 1 State Dues/Membership Forms to NAFCE
- 2 10:00 AM Maryland FCE Board Meeting, Montgomery County Extension Office
- 31 **Counties' Annual Reports due to Vice President for Program;**  
**Membership Appreciation Award due to Vice President for Program**

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## MARYLAND FCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration form in Summer issue of "Look What's Happening". See driving directions on page 8.

## CHARACTER COUNTS!<sup>®</sup> Contest for 2019-2020

**Respect**, the second pillar of character, is this year's focus. Contact your local schools (county presidents have the information) and encourage them to participate in the FCE essay and artwork contest from September 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020. Send winning entries to the state president by March 1, 2020.

## MDFCE Web Site is [www.mdafce.org](http://www.mdafce.org)

Send new officer's list, newsletters, calendars and information to Libby Wade at [dunade@aol.com](mailto:dunade@aol.com).

## Newsletter Deadline: November 1

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is time to think about family again. I was on vacation with my husband, my daughter, my son-in-law, and my grandsons for the whole month of August. We left on August 3, and our first week was awesome. We started out at the Grand Canyon. Next we went Durango and the Silverton Mines. Then it was on to Colorado Springs where we, among other things, went up Pikes Peak and drove to Cripple Creek.

I really believe in doing lots of things with family. I remember when I first got married, my new husband could not believe I talked to my mother every day and the rest of my family a lot. He grew up as an Air Force brat and, except for his brothers and parents, he was not in touch with any other relatives. He would call his mom and dad a couple of times a month and his brothers not that often.

We need to keep in touch with all of our friends and family. The support we give to each other means everything. Sometimes we narrow our focus and forget to reach out to others. "Family and Community" are what we are! Think about what you can do to get involved with the people who are around you. I am thinking of you!

Libby Wade, President  
dunade@aol.com



301-831-8661

## NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM

The National FCE Conference was held this year in St. Louis and it began with a trip to the top of the Gateway Arch - a fantastic experience! Then on to the Fox Theater, which was built in 1929 and has been fully restored. It is simply gorgeous. After that we had a choice of the zoo, the art museum, or my choice the history museum. I found it to be very interesting.

We returned to the hotel for the president's meeting, followed by the opening of the conference. The speaker was Bonnie Teeple, the

newly elected ACWW-USA Area President. Cake and punch ended the evening.

The next morning brought the business meeting. The most important thing voted on was a dues increase of \$5 per year for the next three years. This was made necessary by the continued high cost of insurance and received a unanimous vote.

After the Spirit of Missouri luncheon, 3 new FCL programs were presented – they are "Communicating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", "Lasagna Gardening", and "Are You Driving, Miss Daisy?" Participants of these sessions made presentations on what they had learned at the Spirit of FCL dinner which concluded the evening.

On Saturday morning, an excellent program on human trafficking was given by Kay and Sean Levesque, the founders of Love2Hope. After lunch, 2 new Hearth Fires were introduced, "Using New (kitchen) Gadgets", and "What is ACWW and How Does FCE Fit in?"

After dinner, we were treated to music by Jayke Maples and a visit from "Zeralda James" the mother of Frank and Jesse James.

Sunday morning brought a time of music, inspiration and memorials. After lunch, the CHARACTER COUNTS!® awards were presented and then it was time for the closing. Time to say "Goodbye and see you next year." The 2020 conference will be held on July 23 - 26 in Portland, Oregon. See you there!

Sue Van Slyke  
okgunfight@aol.com 301-630-3918.

## NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC POLICY

It is happening all around us. In the newspapers, both online and in print. On the air, through the radio, over the intercom at public gatherings, shouted through bullhorns, tweeted and broadcasted over podcasts, and graphically presented in thousands of posters and placards. The political machine is starting to cough and sputter to life in our American democratic arena. The fiesta of colors, noises, songs, slogans, name calling, mudslinging, and attention begging is coming very soon to your local home, workplace, pub, sporting event, and political rally. The first

round of presidential debates for the party not in office have already been had to cull out the mob and select the “many few” who will debate in the second round of debates to weed out more of the office seekers. By the third or fourth round of these debates, we hope there are ears that are listening to the issues being talked and shouted about and people making informed decisions about whom they will vote for. Becoming informed is not the responsibility of these candidates, it is the responsibility of each American citizen. Seek out different media, even ones you don’t agree with. Research the issues and get different perspectives about how to fix the many problems plaguing our nation. Go back to the days when we were in school and had to find different sources to back up a term paper or argument that was presented in our homework assignments. Education does not end with high school. The only way our democracy can and will survive is with an informed citizenry. Our founding fathers knew this and promoted the ideas supporting the importance of public education for all levels of society. The more critical thinking abilities a population uses, the less chance all the people will be fooled all the time by one overriding ideology which may contain many flaws not seen by them as they are possibly being led in a dangerous direction. We the people are responsible for the choices we make in the voting booth. Basing those choices on blind faith and no underlying knowledge, just leads to the collapse of our system from within. We can’t blame the Russians, Chinese, or one party or the next for the choices made by us. The safety and future of our republic remains with the common, every citizen-you and me. Think, research, educate, and then vote. May the best choices win, for all of US.

Debra Rausch, VP for Public Policy  
rauschda@gmail.com 301-498-8806

## **IN AND AROUND MARYLAND**

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

Forty-four Carroll County FCE members and friends went on a bus trip to see Camelot at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the show, the food and all were

asking when and where we are going next year. We made about \$350 for our scholarship program for next year.

Our August meeting was the 12<sup>th</sup> and Debi Gibson arranged for Celine Steckels with the Carroll County Bureau of Aging to speak to us on “How Does Aging Affect the Senses?” This was our picnic lunch so we served hot dogs and rolls, salad, baked bean, dessert and ice cream.

In August, we also collect our dues for the next year and encourage members to attend the State FCE conference which, again this year, will be held in Carroll County at the Best Western. The dates for that meeting are October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Also between now and October, we will be selling \$5 Boscov 25% off shopping passes for “Friends Helping Friends” for shopping on October 16, 2019 at Boscov. We get to keep the \$5 and whoever buys the pass will be able to get up to 25% off everything they buy at Boscov that day. Plus Boscov has a BIG sale that day so you can increase your savings! The stub on the shopping pass can be entered to win other great prizes! And the shopping pass can be used at any Boscov! The money we raise will also go towards our scholarship program. If you are interested in buying one of these Shopping Passes, give me a call and I will get you one – or 2 or 3!

The rest of our meetings for this year are November 18<sup>th</sup> where we will be taking about “Eating Healthy Foods” and our Holiday Party on December 9<sup>th</sup>! Both of these meetings are pot luck lunches. In November we call it Covered Dish and in December we ask for holiday or party foods! In December we will also be playing Bingo and swapping gifts!

Elizabeth Heagy 410-857-3388  
momheagy@yahoo.com

### **FREDERICK COUNTY**

Frederick County FCE Homemakers Clubs will hold their Fall Annual Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Center. The first part of the meeting will be a Board of Directors meeting, followed by an interesting program on Student Homelessness Partnership (S.H.I.P.) by Ed Hinde. Attendees will be able to purchase donated items from the “Friendship Table” before and after the business meeting and program. Proceeds from

the table will be used to support our future educational activities. A potluck meal will follow.

Most clubs have signed up to demonstrate various crafts at the Great Frederick Fair the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a children's book give-away on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. A planning committee meeting will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting.

We are in the process of determining the presentations for the Spring and Fall county meetings and the FCE and Homemaker monthly lessons for next year.

Plans are already in the works for our Holiday Activity on Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Bowles  
donnabowels1@comcast.net 301-473-8452

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Montgomery County presented four booths at the Montgomery County Fair featuring "FCE Blanket Making", "Buddy or Bully?", "Give Green a Chance", and "Recycling 2.0 Beyond the Blue Bin". We distributed information about FCE, FCE programs, scholarships and blanket making.

Two members attended the National FCE Meeting in St. Louis Missouri. The meeting kicked off with introduction of the national board and the state presidents. Some of the topics of discussion were "Communicating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", "Lasagna Gardening", and "Are You Driving, Miss Daisy?", "Using New (kitchen) Gadgets", and "What is ACWW and How Does FCE Fit in?"

On September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11AM, Dr Mona Habibi Agent, Family Consumer Science, will present "Portion Distortion" at the Agricultural History Farm Park (MC Extension Office). What is the biggest problem in losing and maintaining weight? It is portion control. Bring a friend and learn the tricks and tips. Also the new food label will be presented.

We are getting ready for the Harvest Festival held at the Agricultural History Farm Park on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We sell handmade items, crafts and baked goods to raise money for scholarships.

Jeanne Purich  
jcpurich@cs.com 301-384-2805

### **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

We had the joy of having the State Board Meeting at our Extension Office on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Sue Van Slyke chaired, as President Libby was on a family vacation out West. We talked about the upcoming State Conference in October, which is being hosted by the combined member counties (Carroll, Frederick, and Montgomery) and Prince George's this year. We are working on filling the last program openings. Sue went to the ACWW Triennial in April, the NAFCE Conference in St. Louis in July, and to an Outlaw Conference out West in July. (I will let Sue report about those trips herself!).

Otherwise, the push will be on to tie the loose strings of conference readiness together and see what the future for our club will be as we are growing much smaller in membership. For now, it's onward to the Fall Conference!

Debra Rausch, Treasurer, PGCAFCE  
rauschda@gmail.com 301-498-8806

### **Resource Development Committee Basket Sales**

The Resource Development Committee is holding a basket sale at the State Conference. Each county will provide two smaller baskets, one based on a holiday and one based on a color. The theme of the baskets available for auction will be: Frederick County – St. Patrick's Day basket; Purple and White basket; Carroll County – Mother's Day basket; Black and White basket; Montgomery County – Earth Day basket; Teal and White basket; Prince George's County – Valentine's Day basket; Pink and White basket.

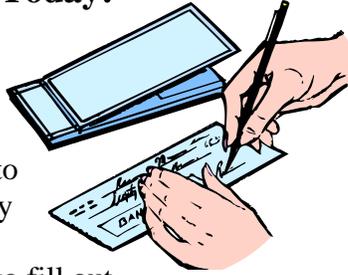


Thank you for your support!

Linda Parker, RDC Chairman  
ellecreek2003@yahoo.com 301-898-9222

## Do Not Delay – Pay Today!

### 2020 Dues!



September is a busy time when we return to scheduled activities and pay our FCE dues for 2020.

Every member is required to fill out the 2020 Membership Form which is printed in this newsletter. Please make a note to take your completed form and check to your September club meeting. Or, if you won't be attending the meeting, would you please mail these to your club treasurer now? It's important to have all of our Maryland FCE members accounted for by September 30! Club treasurers, please forward all 2020 membership forms and checks to your county treasurer by early October.

#### Helpful hints:

- Remove the 2020 membership form and, using black ink, type or clearly print the information as requested at the top of the page
- Do not use abbreviations
- Enter your 9 digit zip code and your email address (for the purpose of sending the newsletter)
- Enter your "Current Member I.D. #" (printed on your FCE Membership Card)
- Circle your membership status in the dues box: Individual, Family, Senior, Youth
- Complete the appropriate dues amounts for your county and club (these vary by county) and total the column
- Sign your 2020 membership form (NOTE: the Member Signature at the bottom of the page must be the signature of the individual named at the top of the page)
- New Member? Be sure to check the New Member box (i.e., individuals who have never been affiliated with FCE) AND, at the bottom of the page, add "Recruited by" and provide the name and address of the member who introduced you to FCE.

**SPECIAL PRIZE** – Each new member and his/her recruiter will have their names placed in a drawing for full registration payment for the 2020 Maryland FCE Annual Conference. The more members you

recruit, the more chances you'll have to attend the meeting for free! The recruiter will also receive a star pin from NAFCE.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Susan K. Morris, Membership Chair  
24317 Welsh Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3931  
skmorris1@verizon.net 301-482-0439

## PACKING LIST FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY TRAVEL

So that you can catch some rays instead of a cold, take a few small safeguards to stay clean and healthy on the road. Here are some recommended additions to your packing list:



- **Cleaning wipes or spray disinfectant** – A travel size spray or pack of wipes can be great for hotel or rental surfaces like doorknobs, telephones and remote controls.
    - **Hand sanitizer** – For outdoor activities, throw a small bottle of sanitizer in your bag, especially when you won't have ready access to facilities.
    - **Laundry detergent** – Take along some easy-to-carry laundry packets if you're doing some away-from-home loads. Or consider packing a small detergent bottle for hand washing clothes in the sink if you don't have a washing machine.
    - **Stain-removal pen** – It won't take up a lot of room in your suitcase and can do the trick so spots don't set in.
- Also, if you're traveling by car to a hot climate, **leave the aerosols at home!** Some things are just not meant to be left out in high temperatures.

Want more clean?

**Clean the World Foundation** has opened The Soap Story, an interactive museum in Orlando! **The textile museum** at George Washington University in Washington, DC, can show you how to wash antique fabrics. And, in St. Petersburg, Russia, you'll find the Hygiene Museum, with exhibits, models and waxworks about the importance of keeping clean.

## The History of the CHARACTER COUNTS!® Contest

Many years ago in Carroll County, MaRea Stonesifer was able to get the CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay and Artwork contest in the public school system! So each year, after we get the packet from National with the theme for the year – in 2019 it was Trustworthiness – we take the information about the theme and what we need the fourth graders to write and draw a picture about, to the Carroll County school board office and they send it out to the individual schools. We never know which schools or teachers will have their fourth grades participate. But for the last few years Renae Butler, a counselor with William Winchester Elementary has had 40 to 50 fourth graders enter. This year Renae had 37 fourth graders enter and Taneytown Elementary had 3 fourth graders enter our contest.

All the children who enter get a certificate with their name on it and a book mark with the name of the theme for the year. All the certificates state the nature of the contest and are signed by the CCFCE president. First, second and third place winners receive checks – \$25, \$15, \$10 respectively, plus a small stuffed animal (a bee this year) and a book about Buzzee’s Big Day! We also give 10 Honorable mentions, who received \$5 each plus the book – Buzzee’s Big Day! The book and the stuffed animal correlate to the pillar of character that is represented each year.

Waltraut Staggs and I take the certificates and prizes to the schools and take pictures of the children who win. Copies of the pictures are taken back to the schools so each child can have a copy of his or her picture. We put a set of pictures on boards that are displayed at our meeting and at the State Annual meeting.

This year Riya Dhingra won 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Anabel Varhaftik won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Katie Gegg won 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They were all from William Winchester Elementary school. Nine of the Honorable Mention were also from William Winchester. We went to William Winchester on May 1<sup>st</sup> and Taneytown Elementary school May 15<sup>th</sup>! Whoever wins in Carroll County is then submitted the Maryland State Board by the April meeting. This year only Carroll County had an entry so Riya also won at the State level and received \$50 from the State. This was also

presented to her on May 1<sup>st</sup> when Waltraut and I were at William Winchester Elementary. The State Board then sent her essay and drawing to National FCE where it will be judged with other CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay and Artwork state winners. The National FCE winners will be announced at the National FCE conference in July 2019.

This year – like last year – the parents of Riya had never seen the paper their child had written. So they requested a copy and I mailed them one. Riya will be invited to our Maryland annual conference in October to read her essay.

Elizabeth Heagy  
momheagy@yahoo.com 410-857-3388

## Outside Fall Cleaning Checklist

Time to come inside for winter! Outside the house tend to these autumn chores:

- Clean and store patio furniture, umbrellas, and children’s summer toys.
- Touch up paint on trim, railings and decks. Use a wire brush to remove flaking paint; prime bare wood first.
- Check caulk around windows and doors. Follow manufacturer's recommendations to re-caulk if needed.
- Inspect external doors and garage doors. Install weather-stripping, door thresholds if needed.
- Wash exterior windows.
- Drain and store garden hoses. Install insulating covers on exterior spigots. In hard-freeze areas, have sprinkler systems blown free of water.
- Check gutters and downspouts. Clear of debris if necessary. In cold-weather areas, consider installing heating cable to prevent ice dams.
- Have chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned if necessary.

## Bulletin Board

Waltraut Staggs, Carroll County is recovering from a recent illness at Carroll Lutheran Village.

Montgomery County FCE was notified of the death of former member, Genevieve Steele. Condolence to her family.



2020 Membership Form  
 \*\*\*Type or Print Clearly in ink\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*Do Not Abbreviate City, County, Street or State Names\*\*\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Current Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club County \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership: (Please list) Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dependent Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Dues</i>	<i>Regular</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Senior (80+ years)</i>	<i>Youth</i>
<b>National</b>	\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 21.20	\$ 5.00
<b>State</b>	\$ 3.50	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.50	
<b>Council/County/Parish</b>				
<b>Club</b>				
<b>Donation-defray ins costs</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Sign and send with total membership dues to Club Treasurer by **September 30, 2019**

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.

## Directions to Annual Conference

### Best Western Hotel

451 WMC Drive, Westminster, MD, 21158

Phone: 410-857-1900

October 21 and 22, 2020

### From East and South:

Take 32 west to Route 140 east, the BEST WESTERN Westminster Catering and Conference Center will be on your right-hand side.

### From the North or West:

Take 97 south to Route 140 West and the BEST WESTERN Westminster Catering and Conference Center will be on your left-hand side just past Route 31.



Maryland Association for  
Family and Community Education  
15500 Gallaudet Avenue  
Silver Spring Maryland 20905

