



President's Tidbits

It is an honor to serve as your Central Region president for the next two years—our new Central Region theme is “Growing with FCE”. There is a Chinese proverb: “Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.” It is my hope that both we as FCE members, as well as an FCE organization, will not stand still but will strive to grow slowly and steadily!

One of the ways we can grow our knowledge and leadership skills is by attending Leadership Retreat May 27 – 29 at TTU. This is a fun event designed to “retreat” from your daily responsibilities and stresses! It is a season to grow friendships; a time to invest in yourself as you select FCL classes, educational classes, tours, and craft classes. Retreat includes speakers to swell your knowledge and understanding regarding relevant topics, and entertainment to cultivate joy in your life. There are scheduled times for exercise, relaxation and shopping at the General Store which will include both bargain basement and boutique items! See you there!

We had a successful Information day on January 16—there were 113 FCE members, 21 agents, and one guest present. I hope you were informed and energized by your presence there, and will carry that excitement into your county FCE activities and projects. At Information Day I requested that you share comments or suggestions for improvement, contribute opinions, submit questions/requests, and propose new ideas. You did a great job of filling up my little white mailbox! Please continue to fill my mailbox at regional events, or email me anytime at my new email address: maryaliceweber49@gmail.com.

Peace,
Mary Alice Weber
TAFCE Central Region President

Central Region Retreat

May 27-29, 2020

Tennessee Tech Campus

Retreat is approaching quickly! We have a terrific committee and we are so excited to Grow our FCE Retreat!! We have terrific instructors and fun / informative classes for you to sign up for. Please talk up Retreat, especially to your newer members. We would like to see our attendance grow! See you in May!

Retreat Chairperson,
Karen Hughes

Reminder: Registration due date April 15th .
A late fee will be assessed after the deadline.



Growing with FCE



IMPORTANT DATES

- **APRIL 15** LEADERSHIP RETREAT REGISTRATION AND CLASS DUE
- **APRIL 15** STATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE
- **APRIL 15** PROJECT BROCHURES DUE TO NAFCE
- **APRIL 22** CENTRAL BOARD MEETING
- **APRIL 25** DRUG TAKE BACK DAY
- **APRIL 28 & 29** FCL TRAINING LEBANON TN
- **MAY** IMAGINATION LIBRARY MONTH
- **MAY 15** DAY OF THE FAMILY
- **MAY 27-29** CENTRAL REGION RETREAT TTU

Please Visit our Facebook page:
TAFCE Central Region

All dates, forms, contacts and information can be found on the TAFCE Website.

WWW.TAFCE.ORG

County Spotlight

Putnam County

Putnam County is 79 FCE members strong, five of those members are youth! They have several county service projects. The photo to the right shows the Cookeville Regional Medical Center baby closet that helps families in Putnam County that may not have the supplies they need for a new baby. Putnam County FCE assists with Habitat for Humanity by providing fire extinguishers for new homes and provides supplies for the animal shelter. Putnam County FCE also sponsors a 4-H Congress delegate each year.



We want Putnam County FCE to know they are in our daily thoughts and prayers as they walk through this difficult time following the devastating tornado which swept across their community. We are also remembering our FCE friends in Davidson, Smith and Wilson County who were also affected.

Growing with FCE in Central Region

Congratulations to the following counties who have grown their club membership in 2020 over the 2019 membership! Our total membership as of end of February 2020 is 1,578 members.



Bedford County	+9 to 100 members
Cheatham County	+3 to 30 members
Clay County	+5 to 18 members
Dekalb County	+3 to 42 members
Jackson County	+2 to 10 members
Lincoln County	+4 to 111 members
Macon County	+1 to 18 members
Marion County	+1 to 10 members

Marshall County	+14 to 64 members
Putnam County	+6 to 79 members
Robertson County	+5 to 78 members
Rutherford County	+1 to 68 members
Smith County	+1 to 159 members
Williamson County	+4 to 122 members
Wilson County	+41 to 186 members

Peggy Richmond, Treasurer

Tip for Retaining Members: We must recruit new members, but also retain our membership! Members are involved with your organization because they want to help and learn, but many would also like to be recognized for their contributions. Retention begins the day they become a member. Recognize members at every level of membership. List and thank new members, or those who have just renewed, in your organization's newsletter or at your next meeting. Send them a welcome letter or one thanking them for renewing. Have small honors or notices for members who have hit the 5-, or 10-year milestone. Consider rewarding them with prizes, or tokens of appreciation.

<https://www.amcnposolutions.com/how-to-retain-members-of-your-nonprofit-association/>

Officer Spotlight: Greta Kirby, VP for Programs



I have been a member of Smith Co. FCE since 2005 after having received an invitation to a meeting from a friend. I had just retired from my career as an R.N. and moved back to Carthage, TN to care for my elderly father and a disabled brother that I knew would need care after my father passed.

It was a great opportunity to become acquainted with others in the community and make new friends as well as learn new skills. Janie Pedigo was a great extension agent and before long I was elected president of my local club. I remember she said to me one day, "You are an encourager". This led to other leadership responsibilities and after a few years I served as president of the Smith County Council. About the same time I was asked to serve on the Public Health Council for Middle Tennessee and after 6 years was asked to become the President of the Board of Directors. This kept my interest in the health care industry alive while being able to be an advocate for public health services.

The opportunity for volunteer work was exploding. My friend who played accordion talked me into learning to play and when I protested that just because I played piano didn't mean I knew anything about accordions she exclaimed, "Just take it home & try it. You'll figure it out." It took about two weeks and then it clicked so I then became a volunteer accordion player. At this time I have four music ministries a month that I do with my local pastor: Senior Citizens, Smith Co. Pavilion, Smith Co. Health Care and the Alzheimer's Center. I also do fund raisers at Thanksgiving and at Christmas.

I have also served as pianist for several different churches and have played for a southern gospel quartet. In 2018 I was asked to run for Smith County Commissioner and was successful in my bid. About a year ago my friend Wanda Briddelle called me up out of the blue and asked me if I would consider running for VP for Programs for Central Region. I was honored that she would think of me for this important job. I hope that during my time in this position I have once again been an "encourager".

IMPORTANT DATES

- JUNE 1
CREATIVE WRITING
AND CVU DUE
- JUNE 15
BEST OF THE BEST DUE
- NOVEMBER 8-11
TAFCE
CONFERENCE,
KINGSPORT, TN

Visit our Facebook page:
TAFCE Central Region FCE

All dates, forms, contacts and information can be found on the TAFCE Website.

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