

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

MARCH

- All Women's History Month
- 5 10:00AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office
- 31 Heart of FCE, Spirit of FCL and Outstanding Family Award due

APRIL

- All Celebrate Earth Day
- 1 **Deadline for Region I & II Meetings**
- 14 **9:30 AM Region II Meeting, Extension Office, Derwood, MD**
- 15 All State reports due to NAFCE
- 24 **9:30 AM Region I Meeting, Extension Office, Westminster, MD**

MAY

- 1 LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING deadline for items to Editor
- 7 10:00AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office

JUNE

- All Nominees for State Officers, Group I
- 2-10 ACWW Meeting Turku, Finland
- 4 10:00AM Executive & Education Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel Extension Office

Inside.....

- From The President 2
- News from the VP for Program 2
- Public Policy Notes 3
- FCL Certification 3
- Book, Books and More Books 3
- Directions to Regional Meetings 4
- In and Around Maryland 4
- ACWW News 5
- The Banana 6
- Interesting Facts! 7
- Chicken, Tomato and Bean Soup 8

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Have you registered for the Regional meetings? Carroll County will host Region I on April 24, 2007 at the Carroll County Extension Office in Westminster. Region II will be hosted by Montgomery County on April 17, 2007 at the Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood. Directions on page 4.

FIFTEEN CENTS EVERYDAY



Are you saving Fifteen Cents Everyday to cover your dues and dues for a friend in 2008? That's all it takes to double our membership.

MDFCE Web Site is www.mdafce.org

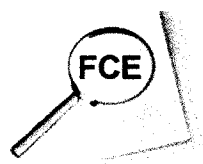
THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON THE WEB!!!! Click on the "Look What's Happening" button on the left, the newsletter will appear. There you have it, it's that easy!

Continue to update your web page. Send newsletters, calendars and information to Marie Moeller. E-mail mariemoeller@yahoo.com

Newsletter Deadline: May 1

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT



FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE WITH FCE – 2007

We are ushering in a New Year for our Maryland FCE with creative educational programs, leadership opportunities, ideas for family oriented activities, retirement information and much more.

Our board is already hard at work preparing these programs. The officers and committee people from last year did an outstanding job and I want to thank them for all their enthusiasm and hard work.

I hope you have already entered the dates for our Regional Meetings and Annual Conference on your calendar. They are as follows:

April 17, 2007 – Region II meeting

April 24, 2007 – Region I meeting

October 16-17, 2007 – Annual Conference

Since our organization is very much in need of new members, I encourage you to invite friends to attend these meetings to see for themselves what interesting programs we provide.

Remember, February is Birthday Month and pennies should be sent to the State Treasurer. This is a once a year collection to help allay the cost of the newsletter.

There are still a few committee positions open on our board, particularly RDC. I know there is a lot of talent out in the counties. Think of all the benefits you have received from homemakers/FCE over the years. Could you possibly give of your time now to help continue these excellent programs? If you or anyone you know would be willing to help out, please contact any member of the executive board or myself.

I hope you are still collecting books for children and labeling them as gifts from FCE. This is an excellent opportunity to keep the FCE name in front of the public and the books are distributed in your own county.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings. I know you will find them worthwhile.

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

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM

CAN YOU REALLY TEACH OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS?

Speaking for myself, this "old dog" is always looking for opportunities to learn "new tricks." I'm not up to speed with my computer but I know where to go to learn more about it. How about you--are you involved in lifelong learning? Whether you want to learn to send emails, improve your health, s-t-r-e-t-c-h your dollars, strengthen your faith or take up knitting where are lots possibilities to pursue.

FCE is front and center with many of those opportunities. Our Regional FCE meetings are perfect examples of those chances to learn some "new tricks." Madeleine Greene, Family and Consumer Science Educator-Howard County, will be at both regional meetings to give us the latest scoop on selecting retirement living alternatives. Joanne Hamilton, Family and Consumer Science Educator-Carroll County, will present "Everything Old is New Again" at the Region I meeting. Susan Morris, Family and Consumer Science Educator-Montgomery County, will present "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" at the Region II meeting. Yours truly will be sharing some centerpiece ideas with "Ice Box Creations." Registration information was in the Winter 2006 "Look What's Happening" with Region I meeting on April 24 in Westminster and Region II meeting on April 17 in Derwood. If you have misplaced your winter newsletter give me a call at 410-398-4536 or fdjrpugh@aol.com. Also, let me know what programs you are interested in and/or some you are willing to teach.

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

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

Governor O'Malley's Legislative Agenda is focused on improving the quality of life in Maryland - education and healthcare, environment and the Bay and making government work again for Marylanders.

The Administration is working on a package of healthcare reform measures named "Health Care For All". Currently, 46 million Americans are without health insurance. There are 800,000 uninsured people in Maryland. The Maryland Initiative calls for \$1 tax increase on cigarettes. This would help pay for health insurance for 250,000 uninsured Marylanders; \$90 million would expand Medicaid to parents below the poverty level (< \$16,600 a year for a family of three.) The Children and Working Families Healthcare Act would use the tobacco money with millions leveraged from the federal government to enroll tens of thousands people.

Other Bills introduced are Protective Orders from 12 months to 24 months, making Sexual Abuse of a Child Under 13 a crime of violence, protecting a Victim's Right to Possession of Property and Safeguarding Crime Evidence by licensing and oversight of forensic Crime Laboratories.

Other initiatives include measures to change the way elections are run in Maryland and to allow for early voting.

The Senate voted to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour from \$5.15 over two years.

Senator Kelley (Baltimore) introduced and then withdrew a bill for mandatory vaccination of girls ages 10-13 against the human papillomavirus (HPV) which causes cervical cancer. Over 250,000 women die each year of cervical cancer. This is a major health issue.

Contact your representatives and let them know how you feel about these issues.

Maryland legislature had the highest percentage of women until this last election. We are now number 6.

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

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (FCL)

CERTIFICATION or what do I do with all those pretty certificates I get?

FCE members can become certified as FCL Trainers when they complete 30 hours of FCL Training with 3 hours in each of the following categories (a total of 18 hours) plus 12 more hours in any combination of these categories: Leadership, Group Process, Issue Analysis and Resolution, Public Policy, Volunteerism and Teaching Techniques. (See back of certificate and/or National FCE Handbook). Fill out page SR 5b in your Maryland Standing rules (each county president has one or I would be happy to send you the info). Send the complete package to me and I will send it to National. You will receive your FCL Trainer name badge.

If you have received your FCL Certified Leader Badge since 1995 or if you lack hours in any category, let me know so that the MDAFCE Educational Committee can plan educational programs in those areas.

Marie Moeller
Chairperson of FCL

BOOK, BOOKS and MORE BOOKS!

Don't forget to keep collecting and giving books to children of all ages. Report the total number of books you have given from January through March 15 to Judy Pugh (410-398-4536 or fdjrpugh@aol.com by March 15th. We are preparing an Award report and display for National FCE with this information. Be sure to label each book with the MDAFCE website and your county.

Country Women's Council News

The 2007 Winter issue of the CWC newsletter, *News Sheet*, is now on the CWC web site www.cwcusa.org. Check it out.

