

## TAFCE Board Update:

Our TAFCE Board meeting was held August 18 and 19 in Lebanon, TN at the Comfort Suites. Several projects were discussed and decisions made. Changes in Cultural Arts were requested. After reviewing all the requests, the board agreed with the committee not to change categories at this time. We were also presented three themes from the Central Region for the conference in 2009. After much discussion, the board decided on "All Wrapped up in FCE."

As it gets closer to November, a lot of the board's time is spent preparing for the conference. CVU's, Cultural Arts and Creative Writing are just a few projects we check and double check to make sure we're ready. We need pins, ribbons and gifts for officers going off the board, and we're preparing for new officers coming on board. There is a lot involved in preparing for the conference.

All of Eastern Region has been working hard to make sure we have a great conference and everyone has a good time. This is the time for us to honor our FCE members who have worked this last year on FCE projects.

I want to share the information about next year's conference. It will be held in Jackson, TN at the Holiday Inn Select. The dates will be November 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The 2010 conference location will be decided by the end of the year.

Our three regions have been busy the last few months:

- Western Region had their mini conference at the state park on July 29<sup>th</sup> with 217 in attendance. Maurine Hickman will be the new Western Region president till the end of the year when Patty Mayhall will then become the new president.
- Central Region President Wanda Briddelle stated they had 88 full time and 250 one-day campers at their camp this year. They had their annual meeting September 11 in Manchester, TN.
- Eastern Region President Betty McFarland reported on their spring conference and upcoming future events to be held at the fall conference. Cathy Shreve is their new Vice President of Programs.

In other state FCE news, our CHARACTER COUNTS! winner is Ivy Watkins from Decaturville, TN. Ivy won a \$50.00 savings bond. Her essay was on Respect. We also want to congratulate Kay Baker for winning the *Heart of FCE* for the state.

Kay Baker and I drove to Burlington, VT for the NAFCE conference in July. The conference was held at the Inn in Essex. We had several speakers including one of the past governors of Vermont. Kay Baker won the *Spirit of FCL* Award – a great honor. There were 150 in attendance, everyone had a great time. I formed a committee consisting of Kay Baker, Delois Ledford and myself to put together an information board which will

go to the NAFCE Conference in 2009. The 2009 conference will be in Portland, Oregon.

This will be the last board update I will do as state president. I want to say it has been a wonderful learning experience. I look forward to my next position and project in FCE, whether it is in my county, region or state. I want to thank everyone on the board, in FCE and with UT who have helped me with my last two years as president.

I am excited about attending our conference in Knoxville, TN and hope to see all of you there!

Cathy Oaks  
TAFCE President