

Oregon FCE News

Volume 33 Issue 1

Oregon Association for Family & Community Education

February 2026

President's Comments



President's Newsletter Article February 2026

I hope all is well with you and your family. It has been a very busy year, with officiating volleyball this past fall, helping with wrestling tournaments, substitute teaching almost every school day, being a Branch President for my church, working in my shop, lots of FCE business at the local, State and National level, Oregon FCE Zoom lessons, helping Bonnie with Keeper's Corner, and most importantly being a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. It has been a great year and I am loving life. I recently had cataract eye surgery, and it has gone very well.

FCE is well and alive in Klamath Falls. Our Study Group continues to grow in numbers. We had a wonderful December activity and gained a few new members. We are doing "Hybrid Study Group Meetings" via Zoom and invite all interested in joining with us. We've had some great lessons.

As of January 1, 2026, Bonnie officially became the National FCE President. She is off to a great start and has lots of great ideas for the organization. Bonnie is wearing many hats including ACWW-USA Area President (her term ends in April 2026), National FCE President, Oregon FCE State Treasurer, Klamath/Jackson County President, Contemporaries Study Group President, owner/manager of Keeper's Corner, Relief Society President for our Church, and of course, a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. As you can see, she is a busy lady.

In April, Bonnie and I are scheduled to attend the ACWW World Conference in Ottawa, Canada. We

are excited to attend this great event. At that time Bonnie will be released from her position on the ACWW Board.

Your Oregon FCE State Board is busy planning for the 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference. It will again be held in Springfield, Oregon. Dates of the Conference are October 5, 6, and 7. The Board will meet on Sunday, October 4. Set up for the Conference will also begin that day. Conference Scholarships will be available and starting this year, we are having an Oregon FCE Member Essay Contest where people can win award money to be used towards attending the State Conference. Check out the Oregon FCE website for complete application forms and information. We are also doing a couple of new things in the schedule. The Board meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon so the Board members can attend the activities on Monday morning. We are also doing something new in doing two service projects on Monday morning including making "Comfort Bears" and "Lap Blankets." These are proposals and may change some.

We have been promoting the 2026 Oregon/National FCE High School Age Essay Contest. This year's theme is "RESPECT." The deadline is March 1, 2026, so time is growing short. Starting last year, it is a State and National contest. Lots of work has been done about getting the information out to high school age students. Students can win up to \$1,000.00. Last year we had 9 contestants from around the State of Oregon. This year we are predicting about 20 or more. Last year, all the essays were outstanding, and it was difficult to judge them 1st through 9th place. You can view and download all the rules and forms on the Oregon FCE website <https://www.oregon-fce.org/hs-age-essay-contests>. You can also see all the results from the past two years.

FCE is well and alive. I'm hearing of various FCE and volunteer activities from across the state of Oregon and across the nation. Lots of lessons are being given and lots of volunteering and learning is going on. We may be few in numbers, but we are all strong in spirit and dedication to FCE. Keep up the

great work. Please look at your email for the postings of other events happening throughout the state.

If you haven't been on the Oregon FCE website <https://www.oregon-fce.org/>, or the National FCE website <https://www.nafce.org/>, lately, now's the time to do so. I have spent hours scanning and posting "Lessons from the Past" on the Oregon FCE website. There is a total of 169 lessons available for you to view, print, or download. The National FCE website "Members Page" has hundreds of lessons available. You will need a password to get on the page, and I can give it to you.

To help with the cost of the State Conference, we are looking for Conference Sponsors including individuals, Study Groups, Counties, and businesses. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for sponsors. I have and will email out a letter and form to each of you. Please find someone to help us by doing a Sponsorship. Last year Conference Registration amounts brought in a lot less money than our expenses. Thankfully the Sponsorship donations canceled out the loss in revenue. We are NOT going to raise the conference registration amount, so we really need your help in finding and recruiting Conference sponsorships.

Let's make sure that we are doing all our normal activities including volunteering, meeting in our Study Groups, County Council meetings, District meetings, and our State Conference. Be sure to schedule and hold those special events that we have had in the past. Please Invite me to your various activities and I'll do all I can to be there.

The Oregon FCE Zoom lessons will continue onward this year. Wednesday, February 4, 2026, was our 62nd monthly lessons. They are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. FCE members and friends of FCE have participated from across the USA. There have been "Guest Presenters" from Oregon, Virginia, West Virginia, Hawaii, Kansas, Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Dakota, Idaho, and Mississippi. All the Zoom Lessons have been recorded and are available on the Oregon website <https://www.oregon-fce.org/oregon-fce-zoom-lessons-on-youtube> Please let me know if you'd be interested in being a presenter.

Before I close this President's report, I want to, as I always do, repeat "Scott's Challenge." My challenge to you is to do all that you can do to

"Grow" this organization. This is an extremely difficult thing to do in these tough times, but together we can do it. We, as FCE members, can make a difference by increasing our membership. Every one of you was "Invited" to join this organization. Now it's your turn. Don't do this great organization a disservice by not inviting others to join. Don't let the FCE organization die. You, each of you, can be the salvation of Oregon FCE. One last reminder, if we don't do something to help this organization grow, the challenges of "Aging Out," "Burn Out," and an "I don't care attitude" will destroy this organization. Become part of the solution. Don't be a "Nay-Sayer," become a "Yay-Sayer."

If all of us don't start doing these things, we will continue to see the slow, if not quick, decline in FCE membership. If you don't care, do nothing and nothing will happen. Do your part and we can stop the loss of membership and even increase the FCE membership. It all starts with you and me. Let's all make FCE all that it can be. We need to start today! How many of you are willing to accept the challenge I give you today and always? **If you don't Love, Share, and Invite them, they will never join.**

I am excited about the things that we have done, can do, and will do in Oregon FCE. With all of us working together we can make Oregon FCE all that it can be. **"It is what you will it to be."**

Thanks for all you do,
Scott Teeples – Oregon FCE President

Report from members about the 2025 conference.

Hi Fellow FCE members,

Last conference in October was such a blast. I had bought some things a few years ago. So instead of taking them to a Goodwill, I brought them to the conference store. I bought tickets and actually came home with nice gifts. The food was good, as well as lessons. We also got to do the hokey Pokey and the chicken dance to get us moving. It was so fun to see old friends and make new ones. Please come in October for fun and education.

Marian Banes, Klamath Falls

(Marian joined in the games and brought Uno Attack. We have a lot of laughs while playing and fellowshiping.)



February 2026

Sandie Bolyard

V.P. for Public Policy

Youth Education Representative

Character Counts Chair

Character Counts, 2026 “RESPECT”

As the Chair of the State Character Counts Essay and Artwork Contest for fourth grade students. I want to remind everyone to get their first-place winners’ entries to me by March 15th so we can pick the State winner at the Spring Board. The Pillar of Character this year is Respect.

Make sure you include the State and National permission slips and a photo of your 1st place winners by March 15th. Since I won’t have time after the Spring Board to get them before sending the winner’s entry to National, any entries submitted to me without the photo and permission slips cannot be put in for consideration.

What I Love about living in Oregon contest:

I am hoping that you are all active in bringing this contest for 2nd & 3rd. graders to your local schools and home-schooled children. The rules are the same as the Character Counts contest so send me your 2nd & 3rd grade first place winners along with the signed National & State permission and photo to me by March 15th. any entries submitted to me without the photo and permission slips cannot be put in for consideration

Heart of FCE

I want to remind everyone that I will need 1 nominee from each County for Heart of FCE to reach me by March 15th.

Please include the Heart of FCE form, essay and two 2x2 photos.

Sandie Bolyard. VP for Public Policy

Sally Wyffels
V.P. for Programs

Another year has past and as we begin a new year it is important that each study group sends information about their unit to both their district director and Vice President of Programs, just one email is all that is needed.

The last four months have been very busy for our study groups. Each study group has renewed their memberships and selected new officers for 2026. Some groups have lost long time members and they will be remembered in our hearts. Another group had members move to other county's or/and assisted living facilities. Some groups were about to invite new members into their units.

The program of preparing comfort bears and blankets to donate to needed organizations was complete by each study group in Oregon. The units donated the items to fire stations, care homes, and places that care for children and/or women dealing with domestic abuse.

Each group also shared how they helped their communities with donations to the Facilities that work for the homeless, local food banks, and public schools. One group donated cookies and cans of coffee to a shelter that worked with homeless. Another group gave to their Firehall’s Christmas Giving that their firemen/women then donated gifts for families that need help during the holidays.

FCE lessons were presented by each study group. Lessons presented were “Hybrid Studying Group Meeting”, “Eat to Beat The Top 27 Health Problems For Seniors”, “Forgotten Towns of Oregon”. Reports were given by members who attended the FCE State Conference in October of the lessons presented.

Volunteer hours listed by units showed how Oregon FCE members are a giving organization. In District 3: Lost Creek of Lane County and Yamhill County gave of their time 359 hours for FCE plus other for a total of 956 volunteer hours.

Sally Wyffels

Vice President of Programs

Jwyffels43@gmail.com

3765 NE Hawn Creek Rd

McMinnville, Oregon 97128

District III Directors Report

Lynda Nyseth Director

Yamhill County has 21 FCE members: Amity 9, Creative Homemakers 11 and 1 member-at-large. Marion County has 2 members-at-large.

Amity FCE has 9 members.

We meet in members' homes and at restaurants. Members have presented lessons and made 20 wreaths in December as our money raising project. We used the money to purchase Christmas presents for 2 young children, paid the \$8 state fee on our registrations for each member, paid for one members State Conference registration and donated to the high school scholarship fund in memory of a member's husband, Herb Romey. He was principle at all three schools, instrumental in getting outdoor school going in Amity and mayor of Amity.

December, we enjoyed our Christmas luncheon at the Road House in Salem. Great way to end 2025.

We started 2026 with a game day. Lots of games, laughter and soups and desserts for lunch and more games.

Volunteer hours October 2025-December 2025: FCE 180 and Others 224. These include FCE activities (lesson teaching, hosting meetings, mailing newsletters, Christmas wreath making, County Council, officer duties), Gideons, church, museum, hospital gift shop, helping neighbors, knitting and crocheting for museum.

Submitted by Lynda Nyseth

Creative Homemakers has 11 members.

The last 3 months of 2025 and the first month of 2026 were busy times for the members of Creative Homemakers. Three members of our study group attended the FCE State Conference held in Springfield, Oregon. Sharon Herron, Sharyl Micheal, and Sally Wyffels attended the three day event.

In November, our members celebrated an early "Thanksgiving" at the home of Sally Wyffels. Sharon reported that she was able to donate the "comfort blankets and Animals" to the Hopewell Firehall. The fireman at the hall were very thankful for our donation. They mentioned that they will be able to give these items to folks who are in accidents. We filled out our membership renewals. The members reflected on the loss of two of our long-time members. 8 members attended.

In the December meeting the officers for next year, 2026, will remain the same as in 2025: Susanne Workman, President; Sharon Herron, Vice President; Julie Tycer, Secretary; Kay Morgan, Treasurer; Sharyl Micheal, county council rep.; and Linda Johnson, reporter.

The group of eight exchanged Christmas gifts and shared a lovely Christmas luncheon at Sharon Herron's home. The group donated cookies and cans of coffee to the Yamhill County Gospel Rescue Mission located in McMinnville (the mission had stated that is what they could use for their homeless folks).

In January our group of 8 met in Lafayette and visited the Old Lafayette School Antique shop. For lunch the group went to Sandwich Express in McMinnville. Following our meal the "new" officers for 2026 were installed.

Submitted by Sally Wyffels

Lane County, Lost Creek FCE has 9 study group members.

Our Lost Creek FCE study group spent the first two meetings this year filling out membership forms and getting ready for conference. After the conference, discussing it and handing out awards to those that did not get to attend. A November meeting was held at the Oakridge Museum touring the museum and finishing up care bears. Our December auction brought in \$140. which we used to donate \$50. to the Dexter Fire Hall and the Dexter Food Pantry. 14 crocheted lap blankets made by Anna and 3 tied fleece blankets that were finished at the state conference were delivered to Elder Health and Living in Springfield. A large bag of care bears were delivered to the Lowell fire Department also. I tied a fleece blanket and delivered it and a card to a former president of our club in January. She now resides at the memory care home---elder health and living. Thanks very much to everyone that sent Jutta Whitney cards for her 90th birthday in January.

Vyonne Hite moved up to Silverton to live closer to her family but was able to come and join us for our December meeting.

There were a total of 956 volunteer hours reported. Oakridge Museum, Jasper Grange, Bags of Love, crocheting blankets and volunteering with the Obsidians.

Submitted by Ann Conklin

**FCE Washington County Advisory Board
Submitted by Karen Walker, President
Washington County**

Groner Study Group meet in a members home where they crack whole walnuts and sell them, with the money they make they made a donation to Washington County Domestic Violence Resource Center of \$150.00. They met at a members home for their Christmas potluck and played white elephant bingo.

Tualatin Study Group meets at Davidson Restaurant regularly but met in a members home for our Christmas luncheon, gift exchange and taking up a donation (gift cards and checks) for Good Neighbor House, totally \$210.00.

Both study groups met at the OSU Extension Service Education Center where our advisor, Maureen Quinn Lores presented our lesson 'What Does Food Security Look Like'.

We are planning an Appreciation Luncheon on May 1st, our program will be "May Day Around the World".

**SPRING FESTIVAL DISTRICT III
MARCH 18, 2026
Amity Fire Station**

"**Joys of Volunteering**", is the theme of this year's festival. Our guest speaker is Tony Meeker, he will be sharing how MV Advancement began and what their goal was and is. It started in Amity as Mid Valley Workshop. A monetary donation will be taken for MV Advancement.

Lunch will be provided: soup and crackers, fruit and vegetable platters and desserts will be included.

Registration fee is \$15.00. Doors open at 8:30, registration at 9 and we will be done by 2:00. Used book and jigsaw puzzles sale, raffle baskets, speakers and games will be included. Also we will collect coins for ACWW.

Registration form is on the Oregon FCE web site. www.oregon-fce.org

**ACWW Women Walk the World
April 29th**

We will again have our walk at the Discovery Park, on Cyprus Street, in McMinnville at 10am. There are paved walk areas, no hills, you can choose what path to take to make your walk short or long. Since it is paved canes, walkers and wheelchairs are no problem. You may bring your dog along too.

Bring a sack lunch for after our walk and games will be available for those that want to stay longer. There is a covered area with tables if you need shade or tables in the grass for those that like the sun.

Come and learn how we are working with ACWW to make things better for women around the world. Last year we had 10 walkers, lets get more people out this year.

Come and join in the fun and support ACWW Women Walk the World. Bring a donation for ACWW.

Lynda Nyseth ACWW Coordinator



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**Sponsors for the 2026 Oregon FCE State
Conference
By Scott Teeples**

To help with the cost of the 2026 Oregon FCE State Conference, we are looking for Conference Sponsors including individuals, Study Groups, Counties, and businesses. Regardless of whether you are attending the Conference or not, please help us with the task of finding Conference Sponsors.

Conference Sponsors will be able to place a Sponsorship Advertisement in our Conference Program. Contact Scott Teeples for forms and any other help you need in bringing in sponsors.

Contemporaries Study Group December Craft and Potluck Activity Klamath Falls, Oregon

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025 the Contemporaries Study Group of Klamath Falls held a December Craft Activity and Potluck. Several craft and fun projects were done including Pressed Flower Cards, Decorated Picture Frames, and Accordion Style Paper Christmas Trees.

There were 15 people in attendance including FCE members, potential FCE members and 4 youth potential members. There was lots of fellowshiping, fun, and food. Each person brought something to add to the crafts projects and the Potluck.

Potential FCE members were given the opportunity to learn more about FCE including what we are, what we do, and why they should join. Each was given a 2026 membership application form and we gained two new FCE members, and more to come, for our Study Group. This will bring the Contemporaries Study Group to over 20 members for the year 2026. As we always know, one of the best ways to get new members is to “Love, Share, and Invite.”

By Scott Teeples





Treasurers Bottom Line-

Each board meeting, I give a financial report on the condition of the Oregon FCE Treasury. All board members including each District Director are given copies of the balance sheet, the current profit and loss report, and, at the Fall Board meeting I generally have a report called “The Bottom Line”. The purpose of these reports is for your board of directors to assess the state of Oregon FCE finances. I encourage them to share this information with members of Oregon FCE. I feel it is important that YOU ALL know that the board is working hard to keep finances in check and, since we are continually losing members, to make sure that we can meet our obligations and keep our balances in the black!

As reported at the 2025 Fall conference we have an overall balance of \$69,981.89. This is an all-inclusive balance of our investments (CD’s), Education Fund Savings account, and our checking account. If you would like to know the balance of each fund, please contact your District Director, or me, and we can get a copy of the reports for you.

The thing that concerns me most right now is not the money issue; it is that our membership has fallen to 89 in 2025. I do not have an accurate count for membership in 2026 as there are still a couple of counties to get their membership turned in. Oregon has not had a significant gain in membership since 2011, when there was a gain of 50 members. Since that time, we have lost anywhere from 10-60 members EACH and EVERY year. Those numbers are sobering. WE will be a defunct organization within a few years if we continue to go the way we are going.

Years ago, I was told a true story of an FCE group in the mid-west. The state members were asked by their state leaders to increase the membership of each of the study groups by one or two people. (A very attainable goal!) One group wrote to the leaders and said “We only have 12 chairs for people to sit on at the meetings. We cannot get new members until someone drops out or dies, because we wouldn’t have room for them to sit.” REALLY??? Soon, with that attitude, even those twelve chairs will not be needed. Unfortunately, some of the excuses I hear from members around our state are just as shocking.

What is it that keeps you from inviting someone to your meetings? Do you feel the lesson information is not important? Do you feel they wouldn’t be interested? Do you feel that our organization is not what they are looking for? Don’t judge their answer. Maybe they are looking for a group of any kind to join. A place where they can learn, be welcome, gain new friends, serve others, or gain a new perspective on life. Someone is yearning to be a part of an organization that makes a difference in the community, the state, the nation, and the WORLD! We have that organization!! You only need to ASK someone to JOIN your group, many times the answer will be YES! FCE has so much to offer people. Sometimes all someone needs is an opportunity to be part of a great organization. To be ASKED to join.

What are you willing to do to keep Oregon FCE alive? Are you willing to SHARE what we do and who we are? Are you willing to LOVE your organization and your friends enough to keep the organization going? Are you willing to INVITE someone to one of your meetings?

Or do you “only have enough chairs for twelve?” If you need some fun ideas for ways to recruit, see December 2025 fceTODAY. There was a great list included in that newsletter.

Bonnie Teeple Oregon FCE Treasurer

Oregon FCE News is sent 3 X year to FCE members paying dues for Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2026.

~Next deadline-April 3, 2026~

Send articles and/or change of address to:

Lynda Nyseth, Editor

21461 S. Hwy 99W

Amity, OR 97101-2239

E-mail LYNDATrose@aol.com

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OR Assoc. Family & Community Education

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21461 South Hwy 99W
Amity, OR 97101-2239

2026 Oregon FCE Calendar

March

- 1 **Deadline for High School Essay**
- 15 **Deadline Heart of FCE**
Deadline Character Counts
Deadline 2nd & 3rd Essay Contest
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 18 **Spring Festival 9:00-2:00**
Amity Fire Station
- 25 **Spring Board Meeting**
ZOOM at 10 am

April

- 1 **April Fool's Day**
- 3 **Deadline for Oregon FCE News Articles**
- 5 **Easter**
- 17 **Mail Oregon FCE News**
- 29 **ACWW Walk**
McMinnville, Discovery Park 10:00am

Mission Statement of OR Association for Family
& Community Education
To strengthen individuals & families through
Continuing Education, Leadership Development,
Community Service

National FCE Headquarters

P.O. Box 642
Florence, KY 41042-0642
Toll Free: 859-525-6401
Email: nafcehq@fuse.net
Website: www.nafce.org