

Oregon FCE News

Volume 32 Issue 2

Oregon Association for Family & Community Education

April 2025

President's Comments



President's Newsletter Article April 2025

Spring may have finally arrived, but you might have a hard time convincing all of us, especially those of us that live on the east side of the Cascade mountains. Last Tuesday we had a high of 74 degrees and then yesterday we received 4 inches of new snow. Either way, it is Spring. The daylight is growing longer every day. It's a time for flowers, grass, and, as we all know, weeds.

Our roof and ceiling are finally fixed and now we are feeling somewhat whole. The insurance company, the roof repair company, the ceiling repair company, the tree removal company, and the fence repair company have worked well with us even though it has cost us a couple of thousand dollars above the deductible. Oh well, no one was hurt and that is what is most important.

Bonnie and I are still busy doing lots of things in our lives including FCE, ACWW, and of course, Keeper's Corner. I am substituting teaching almost every day and still enjoying it. This is my 51st year of teaching. I have also received a new Calling in my Church as the Branch President of the Yonna Valley Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We are now driving 25 miles to the church building. I am also more than ready for the camping and fishing season.

We have completed the 2025 Oregon/National FCE High School Age

CHARTACTERCOUNTS!© Essay Contest. Starting this year, it is a State and National contest. Lots of work has been done about getting the information out to high school age students. This year we had 9 contestants from around the State of

Oregon including 2 from Amity High School, 1 from Klamath Union High School, 1 from Mazama High School, 1 from Lost River High School, and 4 from Henley High School. We had 7 judges for the essays. All the essays were outstanding, and it was difficult to judge them 1st through 9th place. The place winners were 1st place (\$500) Luke Smith – Henley High School, 2nd place (\$300) Sarah Redd – Henley High School, and 3rd place (\$200) Isabelle Herring – Lost River High School. Judging was difficult because of the great quality of the essays. There was only 8% difference between 1st and 9th place. We have submitted our 1st place winner, Luke Smith, to the National FCE High School Age Essay contest.

We will be doing the Oregon/National FCE HS Age Essay contest again in 2026. The theme for the contest will be RESPECT. Please start encouraging those that will be High School Age to start getting ready. I have the 2026 brochure ready to be distributed but I have not got the 2026 forms completed. They will be emailed out and posted on the Oregon FCE website www.oregon-fce.org, as soon as they are completed. Please remember that the due date for the application, the quiz, and the essay is March 1, 2026. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Right along with the High School Age Essay Contest, we had the 2025 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade Essay and Artwork Contest. I will be sending out the results for those contests as soon as I get the full report from our Contest Coordinator, Sandie Bolyard. I will also be sending out the forms for the 2026 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade Essay and Artwork Contest as soon as they are completed.

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 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. Bonnie and I attended the Spring Festival in Amity in March and had a great time. Please look at your email for the postings of other events happening throughout the state.

The Oregon FCE State Board had a wonderful Spring Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2025. We have done lots of planning for the 2025 State Conference. Along with that we did lots of necessary planning for upcoming events and state elections.

At the 2025 State Conference we will be electing Group One officers which consist of a **Vice President for Program, President Elect, Secretary, and Directors from Districts II, IV. (Start serving January 1, 2024).** Please let any member of the Election Committee, Sally Wyffels, Bonnie Teeple, or Lynda Nyseth know if you, or someone you know would like to run for any of these offices.

The 2025 Conference is going to be held again at the same location in Springfield. The dates of the 2025 Conference are October 6-8, 2025. The theme of the Conference is "Power of the Past... Beacon to the Future." Your FCE State Board will again do the task of hosting the Conference. They, along with FCE members, Study Groups, Counties, and Districts will take over that task. It worked very well in 2024. They will use help from all around the state of Oregon. There are lots of assignments and tasks that need to be done and most of them have had volunteers step up for them.

We have selected 5 lessons for the Conference including: Great American Women part 3 by Kerry Mauk; Forgotten Towns in Oregon by Sally Wyffels & Lynda Nyseth; Spilling the Beans on Beans by Bonnie Teeple & Marian Banes; The Red Cross by Karen Walker; and Prostate Cancer by Scott Teeple. This year all the lessons will be taught in the same room so you can attend all 5 of them.

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."

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 emailed out a letter and form to each of you. Please find someone to help us by doing a Sponsorship.

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, April 2, 2025, was our 52nd monthly lesson. 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, and Mississippi. All the Zoom Lessons have been recorded and are available on the Oregon website www.oregon-fce.org. Please let me know if you'd be interested in being a presenter.

The 2025 ACWW-USA/National FCE Conference is going to be held in Erlanger, Kentucky on July 21-24, 2025. It will be different than past national conferences because it will be combined with the Associated Country Women of the World. This year, the National FCE Alumni Association is sponsoring 10 National Conference Scholarships (which pay full registration cost). Oregon FCE also has some National FCE Conference Scholarships available. Contact me for information about those scholarships. Additional information about the National Conference can be found on the National FCE website www.nafce.org.

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?

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."**

Scott Teeples – Oregon FCE President

Web Site for Oregon FCE

www.oregon-fce.org

Again, please check out the web site and let me know what you think. There is lots of information and forms available to all members. Have you checked out YOUR County "Invitation to Join" Brochure that is now available. Please contact Scott Teeples at 541-891-6456, or email sfteeples@outlook.com if you have any comments or questions.



Oregon FCE News is sent 3 X year to FCE members paying dues for Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025.

~Next deadline-August 1, 2025~

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You might live in Oregon if:

You've worn shorts, sandals and a parka at the same time.

You've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed the wrong number.

Character Counts Essays 2nd and 3rd Grade Essays Sandie Bolyard (Youth Education Representative)

Participation throughout the state is still down. We have had entries through our study groups in the past, so check with your groups, the children don't have to do them in school, also put entry forms in libraries and community centers.

Put your thinking caps on, we need to think of other ways to reach children, even your own Grandchildren.

We had 15 participants in 2 schools for Character Counts in Klamath/Jackson Counties. No entries from other Counties.

"Why I Love Living in Oregon"

43 participants in 5 schools

First place for Second grade...**Thane Woodley** from Malin School

First place for Third grade....**Kylee Cullen** from Peterson School

Character Counts 4th Grade Trustworthiness

First place **Kendell Owens** from Roosevelt School. She is from Klamath County and her entry will be sent to National.

Second place **Jaxson Kusel** from Prospect Charter school.

Third place **Valorie Warrick** from Prospect Charter school.

Congratulations to your winners.

2026 pillar of Character is Respect.

Please work at getting others to enter in 2025.

Books for Newborns and Children

It is important to get books into the hands of our children. You can add other items to the bags.

For newborns in addition to **new** books you might want to add a new toy, burp cloth, bib, socks, booties and anything else that would be helpful for newborns. For **older** children the books can be gently used, you may want to add school supplies, shampoo etc. then find a need in your community, there are many organizations that can use our help. Add our brochure to advertise our organization. In Klamath County we give toys and books to Head Start.

V.P. For Public Policy

Sandie Bolyard

I have received 2 nominations and prepared them for judging. All judging is “blind” judging...no judge can tell who the entries are or what counties they are from.

This years nominations were Sue Campbell, Klamath County and Anna Massingham, Lane County. Our nominee and state winner is **Anna Massingham** and her name will be sent to National. Congratulations Anna, and thank you for all of the time you have given to FCE and your community.

I want to emphasize that all writers of these nominees keep in mind that this award is for **Heart of FCE**, they don’t have to have held any office. They are the worker bees of your group, you all have members that might not want to hold an office but are always there to help your group function, help spread the word of all the good work FCE does, they work on fundraisers, man a membership drive table, help with your District meeting, Spring Festivals, Conferences..etc.

If your entry does not get the award this year you may resubmit it next year.

V.P. for Program Report

Sally Wyffels

Semiannual report (Oct 2024 – Feb 2025)

At this time two district, District I and District III have sent reports of the number of members, lessons presented, plus volunteer hours from most of their study groups.

From District I they have two study groups, Groner and Tualatin. Groner didn’t report their current number of members. Tualatin has 10 members. Groner have presented one lesson this year, “Your Marvelous Busy Liver”. Their volunteer hours are for FCE 209 hours and other 250 hours. Tualatin study group presented four lessons from October 2024 through February 2025: “Keep Our Planet Green”; “Historical Women of Oregon”; “Electric Cars” and “Great American Women Part 2”. Volunteer hours for Tualatin study group are FCE 182 hours and other 1698.5 hours. These two groups are located in Washington County.

District III includes three study groups and three members-at-large. Lost Creek (Lane County) has 9

members, Yamhill County has two study groups: Amity has 10 members and Creative Homemakers has 11 members, Marion County has 2 Members-at-large and Yamhill County has 1 Member-at-large.

The two lessons Amity presented this year are “Positive Thinking for Better Living” and “What Does Food Security Look Like”. Volunteer hours for Amity this year are for FCE 197 and other 271.5 hours. Creative Homemakers has presented two lessons this year: “Your Marvelous Liver” and “Electric Cars”. The members have reported their volunteer hours for this year, for FCE 45 and other 120 hours.

On March 19, 2025 Yamhill County Council organized and hosted its annual Spring Festival in Amity, Oregon, at the Amity Firehall. 32 members and guest attended the event. The Theme was “Helping Others” and the guest speakers were from Safe Families located in McMinnville. The guests spoke about how they work to help keep families together and safe. Our FCE members and guests donated \$238.

District and Study Group Reports

Karen Walker, Washington County

We had a group from our Tualatin Study Group attend District III Spring Festival in March, and as always we had a wonderful day. Good fellowship, good food, a very interesting and informative program on Safe Families and very good and entertaining lesson "Great American Women, Part 2".

Our two Study Groups, Groner and Tualatin met in March at the OSU Extension Center in Beaverton for the lesson on "What Does Food Security Look Like". Because our OSU Extension Advisory, Maureen Quinn Lores's job is dealing with, talking about and giving lessons on that topic, we asked her to do the lesson for us, and we were glad we did, with her expertise it was a very good lesson. We all brought our sack lunch and had an enjoyable time. On Monday, May 5, 2025 we will be hosting the District 1 Annual Meeting and Spring Tea. It will be held at the Tualatin Heritage Center and we will have a member of the Tualatin Historical Society give a talk on the history of Tualatin. Hope to see you all there.

Yamhill, Marion & Lane Counties

Lynda Nyseth, District III Director

We have three active study groups: Yamhill County has two groups: Amity FCE with 10 members; Creative Homemakers with 11 members; Lost Creek in Lane County with 9 members; Marion County has 2 members-at-large; Yamhill County has 1 member-at-large, giving us 33 members in District III.

Lessons and studies that we have had November 2024 through March 2025: An Occupational Therapist (my daughter) presented a lesson on helps for senior citizens; Positive Thinking for Better Living; What Does Food Security Look Like; A member in Lane County gave a lesson on Egg Substitutes; Hearth Fire lesson on Developing an Immune System for the Soul; Your marvelous Liver and Electric Cars.

Volunteer hours October 2024 through February 2025: Amity FCE 197 and Other hours 271.5 and Lane County reported 30 FCE hours and 237 others. These hours include: Study group activities (lessons, hosting, newsletter and officers duties); other hours include knitting and crocheting for donations and teaching others how to knit and crochet; museums, hospital gift shop, helping neighbors, Gideons, Church and Firemen's auxiliary.

As Sally said in her report we held our Yamhill County Spring Festival, March 19th. We had two members of Safe Families from the McMinnville office speak to us. They told about how they work in Yamhill, Polk and Marion Counties. There are so many ways that they are helping families. How can we, as some of us are senior citizens help? Could you watch children while a parent is at an appointment. How about offering a ride because the parent does not have a car. Maybe you are unable to leave the house but you could offer friendship and support by being a listening ear on the phone.

July 16th, 10-2 at Elijah Bristow State Park in Dexter Lost Creek FCE (Lane County) will host a picnic. Invitation can be found on the web site oregon-fce.org Come if you can it is a fun day meeting FCE members from other parts of the state.

Yamhill county will be doing the ACWW Women Walk the World on April 30th.

District V

Klamath/Jackson County Council Report

Bonnie Teeple County Chairman

Several years ago, Klamath and Jackson County combined into one county council. We have three active study groups, Contemporaries, Talent-Phoenix and Prospect.

Lessons given: Electric Cars; Your Marvelous Busy Liver; Beans, the Magical Medicinal Food; Positive Thinking for Better Living; Food Security-What can I Do; Cooking for One or Two and an Air Fryer Demo; What is the American Red Cross; Skillet Queen; Historical Handkerchiefs; Healing Power of Food/Meal in a bowl and Healthy Bladder.

Most of the groups do verbal reports for the lessons. Reports show that they have enjoyed the lessons and felt that they learned something new with almost every lesson. Some expressed that they are grateful for the time spent by those that develop and write the lessons.

Prospect Group reported that they had a very successful community bazaar and are working on Comfort Bears. They also donated 35 bags of items for foster care children. The money earned from the bazaar enables the group to give scholarships to local students.

Talent/Phoenix group has had some outside presenters for some of their lessons.

Contemporaries group members keep the three fundraiser booths clean and re-stocked. They have a lesson each month presented by various members. They are working on a new community service project for next year.

The three groups will be meeting at Lake of the Woods in June for their District Luncheon.

1348 volunteer hours reported.

State Conference Door Prizes

The door prize committee is asking each study group and/or county council to bring a door prize to the state conference. The value should be around \$25.00. I know that it is hard to find thing and keep the value at \$25.00, so if everyone in your group gathered new items that they have around their house and combine them it makes a very nice basket without spending \$25.00, you can say you are regifting. Thank you for your help.

Lynda Nyseth, Door prize committee chairman

High School Age Essay Contest Trustworthiness

2025 Oregon FCE High School Age Essay CHARACTERCOUNTS!® Contest Winners



2nd Place (\$300)
Sarah Redd
Henley H.S.

1st Place (\$500)
Lucas Smith
Henley H.S.
(Essay submitted to National FCE
Essay Contest)

3rd Place (\$200)
Isabelle Herring
Lost River H.S.

****Other Outstanding Participants:**

- Miela Azama – Mazama High School
- Caden Christensen – Amity High School
- Thomas Biggs – Klamath Union High School
- Savannah Bradshaw – Henley High School
- Claudia Juarez – Amity High School
- Sara Sanchez – Henley High School

*** Not in order of placing*

Note: 2026 Essay theme is "RESPECT" Due March 1, 2026

Lucas Smith's Essay Fueling the Machine

Human society is a vast machine fueled by trust. That trust can be good and bad; it can lead to strong relationships and fast growth, and it can lead to blind trust in an individual or system that can lead to wars or tragedy. However, trust is a uniquely human characteristic. It's part of what separates us from animals, and it affects our communities from the smallest to the largest scales. In this essay, I plan to explore the upsides and the downsides of trust in the past, present, and the future of human society.

Our nation was built on trust. The American people accepted the Constitution because they trusted that their representatives would not become tyrannical like the British Parliament. The people's trust in past presidents, such as Washington, Lincoln, and FDR, helped ensure the nation's success and growth. Our nation's trust in allies and trade partners allowed us to grow into a global superpower, and our beliefs in democracy and our

founding fathers' ideals have allowed us to continue down the path laid out by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

However, not all instances of trust have been beneficial to our nation or the world. Blind trust is a dangerous thing. I believe trust should be more situational based on what I know about myself and the person I am trusting. A clear instance of the dangers of blind trust started World War 1 in 1914, when an assassination of an Archduke led to a snowball effect of alliances piling on alliances, eventually turning what should have been a small conflict into a war on a scale never before seen in human history. The alliances signed between nations meant that Austria-Hungary blindly trusted its allies to fight a war to help them, even though this meant that any country involved in a war inevitably dragged another few along with it. It was the equivalent of a modern pyramid scheme and taught the world a lesson about the dangers of blind trust.

Today, it's easy to see trust across even my local community, though not at the same scale as our nation's construction or a world war. Trust between local governments, businesses, even neighbors help our communities run smoothly and with minimal conflict.

I compete with the local Shotgun Shooting team, the Klamath Basin Top Guns. Many of our practices are made possible with trap and skeet clubs' trust. They generally hand over the keys to the coach, trusting that my coach will keep track of targets thrown and the associated price per target that needs to be paid back to the club. Even without a structured agreement, the local skeet club runs completely on the honor system even with individuals unaffiliated with the team, trusting that users will refill the machines with more clay targets and pay for each round in a communal coffee can.

The honor-system is a purely human invention that separates us from animals. The concept that we take something that benefits us and give away something in a way that hurts us with no impending consequences for not paying is a concept that would blow a squirrel's mind. Something as simple as a community mini-fridge in the Fighter Squadron at Kingsley Field shows how much humans trust each other to be decent people. If a simple Venmo tag and cash jar are all that is needed to maintain a cheap soda supply to a group of hotheaded young

fighter pilots, then what is stopping trust between countries, political parties, and individuals? That issue seems to be greed.

Greed seems to be the primary cause of broken trust. A great example of greed breaking down trust is the media. In the last few decades, a general trust of news stations has degraded into a massive divide, separating trust and hatred. No matter someone's political lean, it is likely that they are inclined to trust CBS fully and hate FOX with a burning passion, or vice versa. The main cause of that distrust is the greed involved with the news, and their exaggeration of current events in order to gain more viewing time and therefore more monetization. This widening gap based on greed has led to a distrust in scientists and even scientific studies that deal with any sort of political issue simply because one news station is reporting instead of another. For instance, habitat conservation is considered a very liberal thing, and game management is considered a very conservative field. However, the job descriptions can be very similar. It's just one indicator of how a distrust in biased news stations can lead to people tuning out opposing perspectives.

In the future, the only way to regain a nationwide system of trust that runs on the honor system is to figure out how to eliminate distrust in media, research, governments, and more. So much in society depends on trust – response to disasters, technological advancements, even conservation agencies. They all rely on a system of trust between experts and professionals, government leaders, and the citizens. Without trust, large-scale cooperation is very difficult if not impossible.

However, blind trust needs to be kept in check. With the rise in Artificial Intelligence (AI), many corporations, governments, and even individuals will have to choose between a machine or a human's judgement. An overly blind trust in AI and other automated systems could lead to ethical failures or undertrained professionals. For example, universities certifying students for professional degrees will have to trust that their students are doing the work and not ChatGPT or another AI system. A failure on this scale could mean undertrained doctors or underqualified pilots that could put a large number of other people in danger.

Whether creating a great nation or starting a deadly world war, trust has always been an

inescapable part of human nature. It is essential at every level of society, from stocking the fighter pilot mini-fridge to creating large scale military alliances. While blind trust in humans or machines could lead to catastrophic societal failures, calculated trust in a situational decision-making process can lead to huge advancements for the human race. I plan to incorporate this knowledge of trust and its advantages and disadvantages into my own life.

I believe that solid relationships are built on trust, from friendships to marriages. Once trust is broken, it takes a lot to rebuild that trust with another person. For that reason, I try to be honest and reliable to the best of my ability, knowing that this helps my relationships stay healthy and grow. This extends into my professional plans as well, because being a trustworthy person is a huge part of keeping a job and advancing a career.

Trust, as a uniquely human behavior, can be found as a key element in almost every decision in society's history. It shaped our past and will determine our future. As long as the flow of trust lasts, the machine of society will continue to turn.

Southwest FCE CHALLENGE

We challenge all of you to join Women Walk the World. Make a donation based on how much you walk. Make it worth your effort.

You can walk up and down in your home, on your sidewalk, driveway, weather permitting go outside into a park or nature trail. Make it fun and have others join and have breakfast or lunch or snacks together. You can also have a different activity than walking. How about a knit-a-thon? Quilting party? Do an activity that reflects what ACWW and FCE want to accomplish—food security and ending violence against women and girls.

Take pictures/video and share with both President July Fullmer and ACWW Headquarters. FCE would like one picture per group to put in the fce TODAY.

SWFCE is going to have a world map picture and walk around it—it will be hot in west TX and in southern AZ, so air conditioning is essential.

April 29, 2025 is the day (or date close to it).

THE CHALLENGE IS ON!

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Oregon Association for Family & Community Education

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OR Assoc. Family & Community Education

Oregon FCE News
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2025 Oregon FCE Calendar

April

29 ACWW Walk

May

5 Washington County Tea

7 Zoom Lesson

11 Mother's Day

26 Memorial Day

June

4 Zoom Lesson

15 Father's Day

July

2 Zoom Lesson

4 Independence Day

16 FCE Picnic, Dexter, OR

21-24 2025 ACWW-USA/National FCE
Erlanger, KY, Forms on www.nafce.org

August

1 Oregon FCE News deadline for articles

6 Zoom Lesson

15 Mail Oregon FCE News

September

1 Labor Day

3 Zoom Lesson

October

6-8 Oregon FCE State Conference

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

National FCE Headquarters

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