



Get the FACS

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
Vol. 7 Issue 2
October 2011

Presidents Message:

The message, "I'm all in!" has been resonating with me all week. At my church last Sunday, our pastor had a great message and invited us to stand in unison committing to help people take their next step toward a fully committed life of faith. He spoke about us being brought together to accomplish what, to the outside world, seems foolish and impossible. He reminded us that "God doesn't call the prepared - He prepares the called".

I could not resist using this same message as an analogy for us professionally as Family & Consumer Sciences Educators. We live in an ever-changing, challenging world in education and we need to commit to help each other as NYSAFCSE members to be the best educators we can be and to promote the value of Family & Consumer Science to our students, their parents, and our communities.

We do belong to and serve together in NYSAFCSE to accomplish the delivery of the best possible programs that we can in our curriculum area. This is not always easy to do, and some may think it is foolish and impossible. But it is never foolish and impossible when...

- we work together to develop great curriculums and best practices that help us to be as "highly effective" as possible as teachers;
- we all step up to take on some role at the local, or regional or state level in NYSAFCSE so that we are as informed as we can be and can share the workload;
- we can almost instantly access ideas and information through our FACS listserv, e-mails, professional blogs, ACTE website, CTE-TAC and NYSED websites.

- we have such highly committed and professional colleagues among us.

We very much need every member to be involved to some extent. Here's how:

- First and foremost be sure to deliver the most up-to-date, academically rich lessons to your students.
- Make sure everyone in your school district knows what you are doing via your FACS department e-news, your district website and local news articles.
- As a NYSAFCSE member, attend your area meetings; these meetings offer a valuable opportunity to network with colleagues, share ideas and learn new skills and strategies.
- Attend your area's regional conference this year.
- Step up to a local leadership role!! Like our pastor said, "it's not the prepared who are called". You may not feel "ready" or "able" to take on a local role. But in order for those who have developed leadership skills at the local level to move on to serve at the state level, we need you to step in as an area officer. I am a member of Finger Lakes East. When I was serving as our area coordinator and was contemplating this role as state president, I knew I could never do it without my colleagues in FLE taking on many of the jobs I had been doing at the local level. These colleagues – my very dearest friends – are doing a fabulous job in our small area. Some of them did not feel "prepared" at first, but once they were called upon to serve as a local leader and team member, they have blossomed in their roles. None of our areas would function without willing

members, and it is only with willing members and active areas that we can continue to accomplish great things that have a positive impact at the state level.

So, at church last week, over 400 of us stood up to show that “we are all in!” I hope each of you as a NYSAFCSE member will do the same this month and in the months ahead. “I’m all in”!! Are you?

Barb Mikler-Crandon, President
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Canajoharie Walk for ALS

Saturday, October 8

Doin’ It for Dodi!

Speaking of being “all in”! I would like to invite you to join the Doin’ It for Dodi team this week by either going on-line to sponsor a walker or by driving to Canajoharie on October 8 to join others in the walk. Dodi Cechnicki, a NYSAFCSE member and recent state president, was diagnosed with ALS last spring.

The Doin’ It for Dodi team is committed to raising money to support people in the community with ALS and spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure. Often referred to as Lou Gehrig’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease that slowly robs the body of its ability to walk, speak, swallow and breathe.

This past week members of NYSAFCSE Finger Lakes East & Finger Lakes West made a donation and are helping to sponsor Kim Mattice in the walk. Kim is a brand new Family & Consumer Sciences teacher and is also Dodi’s daughter!

I know that many of you have already contributed and some of you are planning to walk with the team. I invite others to please consider joining the Doin’ It for Dodi team in the Walk to Defeat ALS® or choosing a team member from the list and making a donation. The team has a goal of \$2500; as of October 1 the team had

already raised \$3170. **Let’s help them double their goal by Friday, October 7!!**

The link to the website is
http://webwa.alsa.org/site/TR/Walks/UpstateNewYork?team_id=194381&pg=team&fr_id=7419
You can also google Dodi Cechnicki-ALS and you will be taken to a link for the website.

Ask a Pro

Dear Pro: I just started a new job and have found some interesting things in the files labeled FCCLA. What is FCCLA?

FCCLA stands for Family, Community, and Career Leaders of America. It's a national organization for promoting personal growth and leaderships through Family & Consumer Sciences Education. Any of us that have used FCCLA will tell you what an exciting and motivating organization it is. It gives students additional opportunities to apply what they've learned in HCS and high school FACS classes to real life situations. It both engages and empowers them.

One of the things I always liked about this organization is that there are many levels of involvement. You can do FCCLA within the classroom itself and use the various projects as challenge activities at the end of each unit. It can also be a school club. If students affiliate, you also have opportunities to interact with clubs from other schools and attend District Rallies. There are also State and even National Conferences that are run not only for the students but by the students at that leadership level. The first State Conference I went to blew my mind. It was better organized than some professional meetings I'd been to. My students got so psyched, they couldn't wait to try some of the new things they'd learned.

FCCLA is very flexible. It can be done at any level that FACS is taught. There are group and individual projects that connect with many areas in our curriculum. Check out their web sites (www.fcclainc.org or NYSFCCLA.org) for more

information. If you'd be interested in finding out more or starting an FCCLA chapter in your school you can contact Karen Thomas (kthomas@twcny.rr.com) or Shirley Ware (sware@nscsd.org).

Ask a Pro appears monthly. Would you like information, suggestions or advice from a seasoned FACS veteran? Just e-mail phillip3@twcny.rr.com. Please write Ask a Pro in your subject line. If you'd like a reply sooner than next month's issue, just ask. NYSAFCSE is there for YOU!

AAFCS Webinar

AAFCS will host an online webinar titled, Consuming Kids: How Excessive Commercialism is Harming Children. It will be broadcast online on Tuesday, October 25 from 4:00-5:30 pm. For more information follow the link below.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=kql6x9dab&oeidk=a07e4qxc0y1f1b7758>

Get the FACS is sent monthly to our paid membership. If you know of a teacher who could benefit from our organization ask him or her to visit www.NYSFACSE.org for membership details.

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