



**NJCFE General Membership Meeting Agenda
March 18, 2011
NJEA Region 29 Headquarters, Hamilton Square, NJ**

NJCFE President Maryanne Evanko called to order the March 18 NJCFE General Membership Meeting at 10:00 AM. All present introduced themselves. John Natale made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Carolyn Reynolds. NJCFE Treasurer Becky Winters read into the minutes the amount in the restricted and unrestricted funds. In regards to the 2011-2012 NJCFE Budget, Winters explained NJCFE's intent to expand and discuss items specifically targeted through an established outline. Winters advised members that NJCFE will have a budget for both years for circulation at the June membership meeting

Dr. Barbara O'Neill reviewed the March 2011 grants report and the upcoming 2011 events based on these grants. O'Neill read NJCFE's funding to date into the minutes. The full report has been submitted with these minutes.

Vice Chair Dr. Debra Figart gave a NJCFE Southern Regional Office Quarterly Report. Figart outlined the upcoming College Night Seminar for Parents and Students hosted by Wells Fargo and HESSA. The goal of the seminar is to raise awareness for paying for college as well as the logistics of financial aid for students, such as the FASFA form and student loan procedures. The event will be held on April 7th in Atlantic City. Figart called for recommendations for similar events as well as other ideas on ways to fund teacher and adult training workshops.

Michael Drulis gave an update on the recent work of Junior Achievement. Drulis explained that in lieu of April being "financial literacy month," Junior Achievement is hosting a "Bowl-a-Thon" on April 1st throughout the state. The event will host an array of teams, bowling to raise money and awareness for financial literacy. The event will also help fund programs for Junior Achievement throughout the year. Drulis noted NJCFE's sponsorship of this event, while Ms. Evanko called for a need for additional teams in the Greenbrook, NJ area.

An update on the NJ SAVES campaign was given by NJCFE Executive Staff Steven Drulis, who outlined the mission of America Saves and noted the success of the statewide campaign, NJ SAVES. In the past, NJ SAVES was only a week-long effort but due to its success, is one of the few states that has been chosen to be extended to a yearlong campaign to promote savings throughout New Jersey. The grant will go to fund various public awareness efforts such as radio ads, a Facebook and Twitter presence, other website announcements, and four NJEA promotions. Two Workshops were also part of a collaborative NJ Saves Week effort: Financial Planning for the New Normal, presented by Barbara O'Neill, Ph.D., Rutgers University Extension Specialist in New Brunswick and America Saves Week Financial Health & Job Career Opportunity Fair at the Shiloh Community Center in Trenton. Both events were well attended and reflected the true successes of America Saves Week. More than fifteen organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, banks, the media, volunteer individuals, and other coalitions partnered and participated with NJSaves during America Saves Week Campaign

Drulis quoted Dan Herbert of Jumpstart saying: "[NJSaves] is already ahead of the curve compared to the other state coalitions on this particular effort! Your stand-alone website and year-long effort will be an example we can point to next year when the request from ASEC comes up again". Special thanks was given to Nancy Register for all her work and integral role she has played in NJ SAVES' noted success and growing scope.

Ms. Carole Glade gave members an update on the Consumer Action Offender Grants, a small grant received from Consumer Action to work with ex-offenders and build the financial literacy skills of those on probation. The project worked with nineteen women with various felonies. Glade noted the importance of such a program explaining that if ex-offenders are unable to manage their money, they simply cannot make restitution payments and are faced with re-incarceration. Therefore, repayment of restitution in order to get off of probation is of huge importance and but yet, improbable, for those unbanked and financially illiterate. Glade explained how grants, such as this, allowed for the bridging of such gaps within the system.

Vice Chair Figart discussed the establishment of a NJCFE Board of Directors. Under the new NJCFE Bylaws, NJCFE calls for a Board to be established. Figart explained that the board must be even-numbered board, and that the NJCFE Officers are currently in the process of sending out invitations to members. The process is scheduled to be completed in the next three weeks. These board meetings will occur throughout the year, mainly through teleconference. Ms. Evanko also noted the minor change to the NJCFE meeting schedule, as NJCFE will no longer host an in-person December Membership meeting; however, the membership meetings in March, June, and September will remain in place.

Evanko extended a big thanks to Norm Berger for completing the 2009 audit for NJCFE despite receiving only a humble stipend for his efforts. Evanko explained that NJCFE has recently sent him all the documents needed to complete the 2010 Audit as well.

Evanko noted the 2010 Annual Statement, submitted to Jumpstart to be published in their annual report. The Jumpstart Quarterly was made available to those present at the meeting.

An outline of upcoming NJCFE Events was provided, starting with the T-3 Spring Conference taking place on May 5, 2011 at the New Jersey Hospital Association. Deb Figart reviewed the logistics of the T3 Conference, directing members to the conference brochure and flier for complete details. Ms. Reynolds noted that Family and Consumer Science Teachers should be listed as who should attend. Changes to the flier were made and the updated flier will be resent out to all members.

Dr. O'Neill gave event details on the upcoming Boot Camp II: Advanced Personal Finance Content, Strategies and Tools for NJ Educators scheduled for August 2011. Please see Boot Camp Flier for complete event details. Ms. Glade asked anyone willing to sponsor teachers through scholarships so that they would not have to pay the registration fee to contact her.

Sandy O'Neil spoke about upcoming events for NJ Department Of Education. O'Neil advised that she will send an event flier to NJCFE Executive Staff to post on the NJCFE website. Evanko echoed O'Neil's call for increased teacher training throughout the state.

A presentation of the NJ Summit Virtual Experience Website was then given by NJCFE Staff Alena D'Auria. The website highlights the various successes of the NJ Financial Literacy Summit taking place last fall, and includes speakers' biographies, full summit agenda, as well as videos



from the event itself. Evanko noted that the website will also serve as a foundation in creating a Speaker's Bureau in the future for NJCFE. A brief presentation of the newly revamped NJ SAVES website was also given. All members are encouraged to go online to explore and interact with the websites.

An overview of the NJCFE Membership Program was given by Vice Chair Deb Figart. The Proposed Dues Structure was given its 1st Reading. In her comments, Figart noted that, as a leading state in the country in financial literacy, it is not unusual to have some type of dues structure. Dues will also be of help to the organization to grow beyond our own current restrictions financially, particularly to obtain a non-profit status.

O'Neill noted that the dues structure was well thought out and priced. She then suggested that dues process be web based with the ability to generate user based specific invoice items.

Carolyn Reynolds discussed that our program remain as inclusive as possible for state partners. Figart asked that any input be sent to info@njcfe.org for consideration.

A sample of Elementary School Financial Literacy Curriculum Products was then presented by Ms. Evanko. This included workbooks such as "Shopping in the City," "Sammy the Rabbit," and "Farmers Market. Evanko explained that these readings and workbooks are based around financial literacy topics for children. She encouraged all present to take a closer look at the materials after the meeting adjourned.

Dr. Barbara O'Neill provided members with her "New Normal Financial Planning" PowerPoint Presentation. The PowerPoint slides will be included in the minutes and can be found on NJCFE's website.

Other Initiatives for NJCFE were then discussed. Resources will be posted on the NJCFE website. Stephanie Bittner discussed the recent partnership with Fannie Mae to open a new home ownership center and create more ways to advocate for those struggling with their mortgages.

The final item on the agenda included a special presentation by Todd Zartman on the "Keys to Personal Finance" Curriculum. Zartman explained that the Grades 9-12 curriculum has been completely revised and he directed all NJCFE members to the consult the informational brochure for complete details. This brochure can be found under resources on our website. The presentation also included "Math on the Money" for grades 3-8. Materials can be provided free of charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.

Special thanks- This meeting was generously hosted by the NJEA who provided the meeting space, breakfast and lunch.

Partnered with  

308 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08618
Phone: 609-306-3810 Fax: 609-482-4102 Email: info@njcfe.org