



NJCFE General Membership Meeting Minutes December 18, 2009

NJEA Region 29 Headquarters
Hamilton Square, Mercer County
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

The meeting of the NJCFE General Membership was called to order at 10:25 AM by President Maryanne Evanko. Mr. Kenny Lee provided the group with a verbal Treasurer's Report. Lee announced that the current restricted funds are \$21,217 and unrestricted funds are \$3,102.

The meeting minutes of September 18, 2009 were moved by Robert Petrowski and seconded by Emily Demosi. The minutes were approved.

Referring to the September 18, 2009 minutes, Ms. Sandy O'Neil updated the members that the Commissioner of Education will be moving forward to select schools for the State's pilot project on Financial Literacy Project. The process is moving quicker than expected so the NJCFE will not be able to participate in the selection process.

Ms. Carole Glade gave the NJCFE Grants Report in Dr. Barbara O'Neill's absence. The report is filed with these minutes. Ms. Carolyn Reynolds publically thanked Glade and O'Neill for their accomplishment on behalf of the NJCFE grant development. Evanko added additional grants that should be on the list that came in after the publishing of the grant's report.

Evanko discussed that NJCFE has been targeted to work with Black America Saves and America Saves to bring the public relations campaign once again to New Jersey. Mr. Michael Drulis reviewed the logistics to roll out this annual public relations benefit event.

Evanko reviewed the success of the 2009 Summer Showcases and announced the 2010 curriculum showcase for 2010. They are as follows:

- March 24 at Stockton, April 2
- EIRC at Rowan University
- April 20 Bergen Community College
- April 22 at Affinity in Basking Ridge
- April 28, at William Paterson University.

Ms. Cynthia Forster of the Record offered to bring the information to her paper for posting and asked for additional information.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Adult Education Conference - The WIB found the NJCFE through a press article on NJCFE being the benefactor of the NJ Bankers and Society of CPA's Golfouting to benefit financial literacy. The WIB asked us to get involved in their conference on March 12.

NJCFE will host the first Econchallenge this Spring, March 22 – March 26. New Jersey and the NJCFE will be the host for it and we are excited to have a team from New Jersey. This is



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sponsored by the University of Nebraska and the eligibility requirements will soon be announced to the organization.

NJCFE has had a successful record of financial literacy events in South Jersey, but an infrastructure is required. NJCFE has worked with Stockton State College to establish the NJCFE Branch Office. Ms. Deb Figart is a professor of economics at Stockton, and Evanko introduced her. Figart discussed her involvement in the past South Jersey Showcase and informed the group that her institution has expanded her job to include her involvement with NJCFE.

Evanko introduced Eileen Beatty. Beatty has taken the lead role on the NJCFE Parent Initiative. Beatty works with local community groups such as the YMCA's and PTO's to bring them resources for their participating parents and family. Beatty will now bridge NJCFE to these groups. Forster discussed the need to do this in North Jersey and Beatty and Forster can now work together.

The Officers' met early in the Month to discuss the by-laws. The organization is growing and changing and it's once again time to review the last version of our by-laws to make them current. Reynolds will be Chairing a Committee for anyone interested in participating. Glade suggested that the current by-laws consider an Officer's Election and action needs to be taken in order to stay compliant. Drulis recommended that the By-laws committee and nominating committee do the work together so that the group can move forward in March.

Evanko announced free materials at the front of the room for pick up and distribution.

Drulis gave an update on the ASHA- Fall/October 28, 2009 Conference. He noted that the event was well attended and great awards were given out to NJ Financial Education Supporters.

Glade gave us an update on the Citi Urban/Special needs project. There were six workshops, statewide and they've been successful.

Evanko introduced Piotrowski as the New Jersey representative to the 1st Jumpstart Teachers Conference in Washington. Over 300 attendees were present from 48 States. The event was at Federal Reserve, as a testimony to the commitment that the Government has to promote Financial Literacy. Piotrowski discussed the numerous breakout sessions and overall program.

Sandy O'Neil discussed a letter that was circulated regarding the high school graduation requirements for financial literacy. There will be a great deal of NJDOE sponsored training in the content areas to support the revised NJCCCS that was to start in January, but with the change to the new administration, it appears that the training will occur in February of 2010.

Drulis discussed the 2010 website and upcoming improvements targeted for March, 2010.

A NJCFE workshop on Financial Education was conducted for the Morris-Union jointure Commission Board of Education Meeting by Glade. Glade discussed that teachers are grappling with the new personal finance requirements and appreciated the assistance by the state and NJCFE. The classroom teacher, curriculum materials manager and administration have a series of challenges ahead of them. The group is looking for resource type curriculum rather than text books.



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Reynolds was introduced as the Liaison between the NJ Education Association (NJEA) and the NJCFE. She discussed the 2010 conference on November 4 and 5, 2010. All those who wish to participate in the 2010 conference need to make themselves known to Reynolds by January 15, 2010. At each conference, NJCFE attempts to be a presenter in order to promote the NJCFE and financial literacy.

Evanko presented Drulis with a gift from the NJCFE for he and his wife's new baby, Torrance Stephanie Drulis, born November 15, 2009.

A presentation was made to Emily DeMasi of NJ Banker's for the NJ Bankers and NJ Society of CPA's 2009 Annual Golf Tournament for which NJCFE was the benefactor with a donation of \$5570.00.

Lee discussed that Casandra Excobar, who was unable to make the meeting due to work duties, is championing new Financial Literacy Initiatives in Spanish for print and radio. These efforts will advance the charge of the NJCFE to provide financial literacy materials and support in numerous languages.

Evanko introduced Mr. L. Kevin Morrison to discuss the Morrison Group. Morrison began his presentation with a video of Chairman Bernanke of the Federal Reserve discussing the need for financial education in the minority communities. The Morrison Group provides workshops and support in financial literacy in the CT region. His message includes teaching the youth to participate in the economy as a saver, not just a consumer. They developed a book on teaching higher level financial items in the classroom and are available to work in the classrooms.

Evanko introduced Carl Robinson, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration of the NY Region, introduced himself and noted how important and timely NJCFE is in its charge and function during these times, particularly to groups like the Social Security Administration. The Commissioner of the Administration has four directives, one of which has to do with Financial Literacy. Robinson discussed the function of the Social Security website and its functionality. It was recommended that NJCFE and the Administration swap website links on our website and www.socialsecurity.gov.

Junior Achievement is once again hosting the Finance Park in Newark from January – March, information to follow.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Michael Drulis and respectfully submitted by Becky Winters, NJCFE Vice President/Secretary.