

# PARENT PERSPECTIVES

This issue of *Parent Perspectives* comes from our committee chair, Deb Woythal of Iowa. Please ENJOY!



**FPSPI**  
FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Parents,



We have an exciting year of newsletters forthcoming for you. We plan to have a variety of newsletters for you this year:

- Ideas for assisting with funding for your Affiliate Program
- FPS Toolkit for parents
- Information on our newest component, Scenario Performance
- Details regarding the relevance of FPS in the global context
- Ways in which social and emotional development can be enhanced through FPS participation

We will finish up in May with one of our favorite issues of each year, the testimonial issue with blurbs from coaches and alumni.

To begin this year's newsletter, **TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

1. Coaches are passionate about FPSPI and are usually very busy people - people who would welcome help from parents! One really great way to assist is to offer to train as an evaluator. You could train to evaluate Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) or Community Problem Solving (CmPS) or Scenario Writing (SW) or Scenario Performance (ScP)! One need not be a teacher to evaluate, so choose your area(s) of preference and step up!
2. You could help to find speakers on the various topics of the year:

- TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
- DISAPPEARING LANGUAGES
- RECOVERING FROM NATURAL DISASTER
- THE GLOBAL WORKPLACE



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3. You could offer to coordinate a healthy treats schedule for FPS meetings. (You have no idea how appreciated this would be by the students and the coach!)
4. How about helping with fund-raising? If the FPS-ers travel to an Affiliate Bowl or International Conference or need additional resources/materials, funds are critically needed.
5. If you are in a country in which the main language is not English, you could offer to translate the English version of one or more resource or publication into the country's native language.
6. If you are familiar with the 6-step creative problem solving process and the coach works with more than one team at a time, you could offer to assist during the training sessions.
7. You could offer to go into primary classrooms and present some lessons on Action-based Problem Solving (AbPS publications are available from [www.fpspimart.org](http://www.fpspimart.org)). Even reading from a children's book or nursery rhyme would lead to an excellent problem solving session where you would help the students identify a problem to be solved and asking the young problem solvers what kinds of problems do they think could be caused by the problem presented in the book. (Most children's books fit this criterion!)
8. If you like to write, work on a team, or think futuristically, you should consider joining a Future Scene writing team! Teams of interested adults are formed after indicating the topic of interest. Teams brainstorm, research, and write collaboratively. Pay is provided, and most people find the writing experience very invigorating and rewarding! Contact April Dennis, [april@fpspi.org](mailto:april@fpspi.org), if you are interested in finding out more.
9. You could join an existing Adult GIPS team or form your own team. Ask your Affiliate Director or contact [april@fpspi.org](mailto:april@fpspi.org) if you are interested. It would be a very rewarding experience for you AND your child - and FUN! You do not have to be in the same locale as other team members as ROCS, our online system, is available for online completion and submission.
10. Become part of the Parents Committee!!! We'd love to have you!  
Indiana FPS grandmother, Regina Fraser, posted on her blog, a very thoughtful and pertinent piece entitled "The World Has Problems? Ask Your Kids to Solve them!" Her article was posted on the Huffington Post site, Huff/Post50. Here's the URL for you to view and share the article: <http://tinyurl.com/qanuop7>



### EXCELLENT FPSPI RESOURCES:

FPS provides annual resources and coaching handbooks for each component. Along with curricular resources like our classroom curriculum and the champion publications, resources for critical and creative thinking and team building are available. We have ALL kinds of FPS materials available in binder-ready or electronic formats.

Here are three coach-tested-tried-and-found- to-be-excellent resources for the various components of FPSPI available at [www.fpspimart.org](http://www.fpspimart.org):

#### 1. *Readings, Research and Resources* (RR&R)

This book provides current article summaries for each of the four FPS topics of the year, along with important vocabulary and definitions, a topic overview, and suggestions for discussion questions. The RR&R is an excellent background resource for parents so you can discuss the topic with your son or daughter.

#### 2. *Topic Activity Units*

These units are filled with wonderfully FUN ways to work with the present topics. You could ask the coach if you could prepare one activities to enhance the FPSers' learning about the topic.

3. *Community Problem Solving (CmPS): A "Real World" Experience* (CmPS Coaches' Handbook)  
My husband has coached CmPS coaches using this handbook and he maintains it is THE BEST way to become familiar with CmPS and to make it fun while informative for the students.

Visit [www.fpspimart.org](http://www.fpspimart.org) to see the excellent resources and materials available. Many would make excellent gifts for your favorite FPS coach!

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR AFFILIATE PROGRAM:

1. How about nominating a graduating senior for the [CREATING THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP?](#)

This scholarship was established in 2010 in honor of Dr. E. Paul Torrance, founder of the FPS Program. The scholarship honors graduating FPSers who have participated with exceptional dedication to the Program and who embody the skills and actions important to FPSPI.

Scholarship applications will be accepted through January 29, 2016. The application can be found on the website, [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org), under Opportunities.

2. How about submitting a [RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT?](#)

The purpose of the R & D Grant is to encourage new ideas and research that will strengthen FPSPI and/or provide benefits to FPSers. The award amount is up to \$2000. The rules can be found on [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org) under Opportunities. Applications must be emailed or postmarked by March 31, 2016. If you have an innovative idea on how to bring about positive change, do apply for this grant. The FPS Toolkit, to be written up in the November newsletter, was one such idea that brought a positive contribution for all FPS programs.

3. How about nominating an adult from your Affiliate Program for a fitting award?

Nomination forms for each of the [adult awards](#) can be found on the FPSPI website under Opportunities. Nominations are due to the International Office by December 1, 2015.

**The JOHN DAUGHTREY AWARD** recognizes outstanding FPSPI directors, evaluators or staff. Mr. Daughtrey was a dedicated advocate of FPS and was the AD of the North and South Carolina Future Problem Solving Program. Any AD, evaluator, or staff person who has made a significant impact on his/her Affiliate may be nominated for this award.

**The KEITH FRAMPTON AWARD** recognizes outstanding FPS coaches. Keith Frampton, former head of the Burwood Teachers College, Australia, started the Australia/New Zealand FPS program in 1988 and became its first National Director the next year. He was called "Mr. Australia"! After retirement, FPS remained his professional interest.

**The YES AWARD** recognizes outstanding volunteers and supporters. Dr. E. Paul Torrance, along with his wife Pansy, created this award to honor a person who goes above and beyond the call of duty for FPS. Nominees for the YES Award can be parents, administrators, directors, people who provide outstanding support for FPS at any level and are part of an organized FPS program, a school, a school district, or any other supportive group.



**We wish  
everyone a  
successful FPS  
year!**

Do consider nominating one or more people in your Affiliate for these awards. I'm sure you have many who fit the criteria. All you have to do is write a nominating letter and email it to: Janet Fite, [janetfite@gmail.com](mailto:janetfite@gmail.com).

If you have any questions or would like the Parent Committee to address a certain topic, please let me know.

Sincerely - Deb Woythal ([dwoythal@gmail.com](mailto:dwoythal@gmail.com))