

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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IAHCE NEWS



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CELEBRATION AT THE CROSSROADS

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GREETINGS FROM IAHCE PRESIDENT JANE CHAPMAN

President's Speech 2018 Annual Conference

This is what I have been doing the last three years! Some 17,000 miles and roughly 50 counties and several oil changes to the car, I stand before you now to say "Thank-you" for the opportunity to travel this great, big, beautiful state and to be able to meet so many lovely, warm, and friendly people! It has been an experience that I will cherish all of my life. The last three years have gone by rather rapidly, a lot has happened in the organization.

We have declined in membership but we have gained in a renewed form of enthusiasm, positivity, and eagerness to sustain this great organization. We have learned that it is okay to have fun in HCE, to share a joke or two and just "think outside the box" a little more. We can change things, they do not have to be as they were 100 years ago in some cases but we must never lose sight of how important adult education is to the human welfare and our own self-improvement as we make changes. We must continue to "support one another" as we continue to work as a team to make HCE grow and prosper.

607,517 total CVH hours reported this year from 2200 plus members just a little over 1/3 of the membership. Let's do the math and figure what it would be if 6,000 members submitted their hours. 276 hours per 2200 members equals the 607,517 so 276 times 6000 equals 1,656,000 hours! Wow! When I read the service reports that the counties send to me summarizing their participation in service projects to the churches, schools, community, and 4-H I am in awe! You ladies stay very busy, sort of makes me look like a slouch!

If I shared all the different projects that the membership participated in this past year we would run over schedule. I really love seeing all the support, financially and physically, that is given to the 4-H. The support runs from adopting a 4-H club, financially and assistance with projects, to paying HCE dues for the leader of the club. Kuddos to that county, great idea paying the dues! Numerous food pantries benefit from the generosity of the HCE organization with the monetary, food, toiletry kits, and labor supplied to them. I am especially touched by the way this group honors and supports the Veterans and First Responders in numerous ways, one county made 70 Honor flight quilts, which I thought was a great accomplishment! I lost count of the clothing protectors, lap pads, fidget blankets, small quilts for Ronald McDonald House, neck coolers for the military, backpacks for abused children, knitted caps for newborns, dresses for Africa, pads for homeless and other items made by the membership to give to others in need! All these accomplishment illustrate this organization's team work and the "support we give one another"!

As I end my first term as your president and begin my second term, I want each and every one of you to know I am there to "support you"! Not only am I there for support but so is the rest of the state board! I will do what it takes to aid in the success of this organization but I cannot do it without the "support" of this IAHCE board and the IAHCE membership – you!

Use this board and myself, we are here to "support you." If you have an issue, contact us, we'll see if we can help. I look forward to visiting the other 25 plus counties that I have not visited in my first term. I have scheduled to visit few of them already.

To use but sort of alter the words to a song by the Proclaimers – 500 Miles,
*But I would walk 500 miles; And I would walk 500 more; Just to be the person who walked 1000 miles,
 To show my "support for your county HCE"*



Thank – you!

Jane

EXECUTIVE BOARD



**1st VICE PRESIDENT
Sharon Middleton**

Wasn't that a wonderful Celebration at the Crossroads! How could it be any better? Don't think it could. It was a great feeling coming into the room with 355 members in red, white and blue waving flags. The board members and all those sitting at the tables...waving flags! What a

sight it was. Congratulations to Sharon Davis and her crew. They made our conference one you won't soon forget.

Now it is time to talk "District Workshops" that are coming to you in August. We will have lots of information for you when you attend these workshops. Each officer on the state board will have a presentation with information regarding their individual roles. If you have questions, here is the place to bring them. Your officers are here to help you in any way possible. These workshops will be August 7-9, 2018, beginning in the 1 - 2/3 Districts this year.

Make a note on your schedule to attend. You do not have to be an officer in your county to attend. All are welcome. If one district workshop is closer to you than your district, you can attend it. Registration will be on the website sometime in April.

As First Vice, I have some lessons for you to go through on the iahce.org website. I have asked for lessons from counties, educators, members who will share some of their topics whether it be crafts, foods, health, how to handle disasters, how to pamper yourself, etc. I hope you will enjoy these and if you have a lesson you would like to share, send them to me. Different lessons will be added each week. I would like these in a Word Document rather than a pdf. file. Any lesson that goes on the website must provide appropriate citation (s), website (s) and author information. Give credit to those that took the time to create these lessons where you found your information. Looking forward to seeing lots in my mailbox or e-mail.

Any questions, e-mail or call, if I don't have the answer, I will find it and get back to you. Have a great Spring. It won't last long enough to enjoy and Summer will be here.



Sharon

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Angela Hicks**



Hello Everyone!

Congratulations to the counties that gained members during 2017, you kept the momentum going by gaining 274 new members!

We began 2018 with 6,264 IAHCE members! Our goal is to retain and gain at the same time. The more important aspect of that goal is to gain more than we lose.

Once again the Second Vice President Challenge produced new members throughout the state of Illinois. Each district gained new members during 2017! The winners of the Add-A-Pearl bracelet for 2017 are as follows:

- District 1, Warren with 7 new members
- District 2/3, Kane with 8 new members
- District 4, Sangamon with 11 new members
- District 5, McLean with 16 new members
- District 6, Richland with 20 new members
- District 7, Perry with 16 new members

Congratulations District 2/3 – every county within this district gained members!!! Congratulations to all of the winners as well as all counties with a gain! For those counties who are a work-in-progress; continue smiling, asking, and encouraging friends and acquaintances to attend a lesson, meeting, or event in your county. I know that you are working on gaining new members because the winners of the challenge are different counties and the individual county reports reflect gains! The 2017 IAHCE District Membership is in the Conference Program Book as well as in the 2nd Vice President packet.

My goal as your IAHCE 2nd VP has been to give you the tools needed to gain members. Now it is time to put what you have learned to the test!

In keeping with the 2018 Conference theme of "Celebration at the Crossroads" your challenge is to create an event that allows your County to shine a light on HCE in your community. Your presence will light new light in HCE!

My question to you is:

How many "new members will it take to light up HCE" so that Illinois shines brightly?!

Each county received a packet with

NEW INFORMATION!

Please open it and read it!!! After you have read it—

SHARE IT!

Let's "light up HCE" with new members! Find a reason to Celebrate HCE during 2018 and invite others to celebrate with you!

IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS	
District 1 and 2/3	August 7, 2018 United Methodist Church, Sycamore, IL
District 4 and 5	August 8, 2018 Chateau Hotel & Convention Center, Bloomington, IL
District 6 and 7	August 9, 2018 St. Johns Lutheran Church, Effingham, IL

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mother Teresa said “Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the heart of the people.”

Let’s apply this quote to HCE — Go into your county and shine your HCE light brightly. Let your presence light new light in HCE! The new light would be new members!

Looking forward to seeing you at the 2018 August District Workshop!

Angela



SECRETARY Donna Richards

Hope you had great fun, enjoyed the Share shops, and found the 2018 annual conference very informative while IAHCE “Celebrated at the Crossroads”. It was great to see, speak, and visit with many of you.



REMINDER: After your County’s Annual Meeting, send your county officer information to both IAHCE Secretary and your IAHCE District Director, even though there are no changes in your county’s officers. Fill form (guidebook page 21) completely out, include your full Board, not just the Executive Officers. We would prefer email addresses, but some people do not want to divulge this information.

These lists are used every year to compile updated lists of current names, mailing addresses, emails, and/or phone numbers for each IAHCE Officer or Director.

If you send a copied version, please check your copy to see whether you have copied the sheet fully.

If you want to submit your filled out form via email, my email address is dsrichards001@hotmail.com.

I have started my final year as your IAHCE Secretary. If you are interested and have questions about the position, please feel free at any time between now and October 1st to contact me. The application is found on pages 54 and 55 in the guidebook and needs to reach Mary Eustace, Nominating Committee Chair, by October 1st.

I look forward to seeing you at the Secretary training during District Workshops in August 2018. Feel free to drop me an email or call me at 618-554-1790 any time with your questions.

Thank you,
Donna

TREASURER Beverly Combs



If you were not in Effingham for the Annual Conference in March you missed a terrific time. Kudos to Sharon Davis and Marilyn Schaefer in the planning of such an enjoyable and educational event as well as to the rest of the Board for all their efforts to help make this conference such a success!

I enjoyed seeing many of you again that I have met during the past few years as well as meeting lots of “new” people. As chair of the Silent Auction, thanks to all the counties and individuals who contributed so many great items. The total proceeds of the auction was \$2715 (WOW!) thanks to the many generous bidders. The 50/50 winner received \$557 but generously donated half of the funds back to IAHCE.

Here’s hoping you have a great spring and summer. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the August District Workshops.

Bev



SUPPORT FUND GRANTS

REMINDER - June 1, 2018, **Deadline**

Is your county planning an activity that could possibly be used by other counties as a learning tool? Will you be reaching a lot of people with your activity? Could you use some financial support for this activity?

If the answer is yes to any/all of the above, consider applying for a grant from the IAHCE Support Fund. The guidelines and application can be found in the Guidebook at www.iahce.org. The guidelines are on pages 63a and 63b. Read them to see if one of your county/multi-county programs will qualify. Then fill out the application form on pages 64 & 65 and send it to me. It must be **post-marked by June 1, 2018**.

The applications will be discussed by the Support Fund Advisory Committee in August and counties will be notified of their decisions before September 1, 2018.

Bev Combs, Support Fund Chairman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT Peggy Long

Well ladies, as I start my last year on the state board, I can't help but wonder who will step up and take my place.

It has been a great 6 years that I have enjoyed so much. In fact I am glad they have the two term rule, so I will get off the board. I have met some amazing people over these last few years, and it makes me really sad that most of them I will never see again. But I am so glad I got my arm twisted to do it in the first place. I have grown as a person, no not just in pounds. I had to learn to speak in front of the crowd, and dress up once in a while. Now look at me. You can do it too, and the board needs you. It would be great if you could help this next year at conference so you know what all is involved, but if you can work a computer it is easy.

I am working on making some changes at our June board meeting, as I discussed in my workshop at conference, so if any of you have any suggestions, let me know before then.

Speaking of conference, it was a great one, if you didn't make it, I am so sorry for you. We have so much fun, and learn so much, and everyone is willing to share and learn, and our tails are dragging at the end of it, but we can't wait for the next one.

We had some amazing entries in the Cultural Arts Show again this year. There seems to be one item each year that is a jaw dropper for everyone, and this year was no exception. If you would like to see some of the items, just go to our website, IAHCE.ORG. Clarence took pics to share. Maybe next year that item will be yours.

Now is the time to start thinking about what you would like to enter next year. Remember, it has to be finished in the last 2 years. Start planning your events for your education awards, they have to be done this year, and start thinking about if you could take over my job, if I can do it, you can.

Also start thinking about district workshops in August. We need you to bring craft items to share, with the directions on how to make them for the ladies to take home to their counties. It is a great help with planning Cultural Arts programs for the following year.

At District Workshop is when you will learn the changes I made this year, so if you can at all, be there, so you can learn first-hand about them, and get your new forms.

Peggy



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES Norma Korte



I am excited to serve one year as your Family and Community Issues Director! Many heartfelt thanks to Sharon Davis for her outstanding work as Family and Community Issues Director for the past four years. My thoughts and prayers are for a speedy recovery as she addresses some health concerns.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Family & Community Issues Share Shop during the IAHCE State Conference! I appreciate your support and encouraging words.

The main focus this year for Family & Community Issues is flag etiquette and demonstration of our support to First Responders, Military and Law Enforcement. This initiative will continue until August. Let this group of special people know how much you appreciate what they do in our communities.

I asked everyone who attended the share shop to express their ideas for what they wanted to learn more about in August. I am starting to do some research about the topic and hope to have some ideas for you by our Fall meetings. There are so many things we as active mothers, grandmothers, and aunts can do to teach and share in our church, families, and in the community to make each a better place to live.

Thank you to all the individuals and counties who made the IAHCE Conference so special.

I hope you had a Happy Easter and wish you a great Spring from the Korte Family! My prayers for a safe and successful planting season!

Norma



CVH/SALES Ashley Davis



Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank everyone that attended the IAHCE Celebration at the Crossroads Annual Conference. There was so much happiness, smiles, laughter, good attitudes and positivity. That's something I love about being a part of this organization -- all the positivity and good attitudes. It's our actions that makes others want to join HCE! So, keep on being positive and having a good attitude.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thank you to everyone that helped make my first year on the IAHCE State Board great. I am blessed to have an awesome team to help me. Please know this Southern girl couldn't have made it through without all of you.

I, personally, want to congratulate everyone on the awards you received. I am so proud of you all. I am so excited about the final total of Volunteer hours. Each and everyone of you are amazing.

I want to share the final numbers for 2017 with you and please share it with your county:

95 Members turned in 1000 or more.
2,206 Members turned in hours for the whole State of Illinois.
60 out of 74 Counties turned in hours.
305 certificates and 752 seals were awarded- each representing 500 hours of volunteer work.

Each Volunteer hour is worth \$24.14 per hour.

607,517 volunteer hours estimated at \$14,665,460.38.

Each and everyone of you should be proud and give yourselves a big pat on the back. Please be sure to share all the information you received in your packets with your county. This year CVH gave out a Dedication award and some didn't quite understand where that award came from. I also understand that some aren't sure as to how I record the Volunteer hours and/or how the hours are figured from year to year, also some ask how members are awarded the certificates and gold seals. I will be explaining all this at the 2018 District Workshops in August and I will make sure that I include all the information in the CVH/Sales packet. In the meantime if you have questions about anything, please contact me.

I do want to remind everyone to please be sure when mailing in your counties volunteer hours that you are mailing them to me. If you mail the hours to the wrong person you risk the chance of not getting the hours to me on time. The packets I handed out at conference had a little purple card stapled to a letter that I wrote, please make sure to put it in a safe place and remember you can go to the IAHCE website and my contact information is there. I want to make sure every county gets credit for all the hours they sent in to me by mail. This year there were several counties that emailed the hours to me, and that is fine too, just be sure to label the email Volunteer hours, so I know what it is.

As your CVH Director, I want you all to know that I am just a phone call, text or email away. Don't ever hesitate to contact me. If I don't know the answer, I guarantee I will find the answer for you.

I would like to share that IAHCE has some new items in sales. I asked for suggestions on some items that members wanted, so I got a couple. Sales now has:

Purple Coin Purse: \$2.25

IAHCE Folding Fans: \$2.50

Women's Group Collect Magnet: \$ 2.00

And I am sure by now that all counties know about the **NEW IAHCE BROCHURES**. The brochures are very nice. If your county would like to purchase any of the brochures the price is **\$0.30 each or 25/\$7.50**.

Many THANKS for the FANTASTIC job you all do. Please know that each member is valuable to IAHCE. I hope to see you all at the District workshops in August. I am looking forward to seeing what 2018-2019 holds for us **VOLUNTEERS!**

Ashley



PUBLIC RELATIONS
Pat Hildebrand

KUDOS to the Public Relations Directors from the 34 counties who contributed an article for each of the three issues of the IAHCE NEWS during 2017. (Wish there was enough space to list names of each PR persons involved! Thank you!)

- District 1** Rock Island, Stephenson, Warren
- District 2/3** Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, Livingston
- District 4** Adams, Pike, Sangamon, Tazewell
- District 5** Christian, Champaign, Macon, McLean, Vermilion
- District 6** Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Jersey, Madison
- District 7** Hamilton, Jefferson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski-Alexander, Washington, White, Williamson

KUDOS to the Education Award Winners announced at Annual Conference! See Pages 46-49 of this newsletter for the complete list of all the Award Winners.

If you had the chance to look over the award entries on display during Annual Conference, you could see there was a lot of sharing of information using various forms the media and personal contacts by the HCE PR Directors and members. That is good communication. Effective communication is a building block of our organization. Keep telling the HCE story! Keep up the good work!

See you in August.

Pat H.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS



INTERNATIONAL Cara Ausmus

Greetings! As we crossed state lines my children said Goodbye Illinois Hello Iowa so like that I will now say Goodbye District Director Hello International.

I hope you enjoyed our 2018 conference. I thought it was SUPER! From behind

the scenes you realize what it takes to have it "just fall into place."

Sara Kenny ended her tour in my Mercer county. She was a delight-day or night! Coming from her part of Australia her only cross-cultural concern was our use of water. Letting it run, fast returns and small loads of laundry, etc. So as we continue our journey of LESS WASTE, let's add water usage to our list. Her Aussie cookbook will be fun to use and try new things this year. We all use what we have so for her, it's lamb burger and for us it can be beef, pork and chicken.

And next year, we will send someone to Western Australia!! So with that very quick turnaround (or should we say tunabout!!) of a spring trip WATCH FOR APPLICATIONS SOON! Be thinking WHO will have a shorter Midwest winter next year?

Cara

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Outbound Homemaker Exchange to Australia
March 2019 for 3+ weeks

See IAHCe Website for Application Form
www.iahce.org
Guidelines Pages 38 & 39
Also on IAHCe Forms section



Selection Process includes applicant interview

Application Deadline: June 30, 2018



IAHCe BOARD — 2018 Annual Conference

EXTENSION REPORT

DISTRICT 1 NEWS



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Spring is springing up! I've been anxiously awaiting its arrival as I planted over 100 bulbs in my yard in the fall. While the tulips, crocuses, and daffodils are just now starting to emerge out of the ground, I can't wait to see the added color to my yard.

First, a big thank you to Caitlin Huth who has served in this role for the last several years. She has done an amazing job! Another big thank you to everyone who attended the IAHCE Annual Conference in March. I sincerely enjoyed getting to meet members, work with the board and learn more about IAHCE. I am happy that several of our Family and Consumer Sciences educators presented Share Shops. If you missed my remarks during the business meeting, let me introduce myself to you.

My name is Karla Belzer and I am a Family Life Educator with Extension serving Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. I was born and raised in Pawnee, Illinois, where my parents still reside. I am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and Indiana University and, prior to working for Extension, worked for nearly 20 years in the healthcare field. I have been married for 17 years to my college sweetheart and we have two very energetic boys who are 8 and 10 years old. I am also proud to report that we are a 4-H family!

I hope you are enjoying FCS team lessons this year as we have several new and exciting programs to offer. Be sure to connect with your local University of Illinois Extension Offices to learn more about both educator taught (in person or webinar) and package lessons. We will be working on lessons for 2019 soon!

If you have suggestions or comments on FCS lessons through UI Extension, please contact me at 815-632-3611 or kbelzer@illinois.edu.

If you are looking for other lesson ideas, check out the national Cooperative Extension search at <https://search.extension.org/>

Here's to sunshine, warmer days, and pretty flowers!

Karla



DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR Becky Thomas



Greetings IAHCE Members, my name is Becky Thomas and I am excited to be aboard the State team as District 1 Director. I am from Stephenson County. I started in HCE because my mother-in-law had a unit meeting at her house but was too sick to host it, so she stayed in her bedroom and my sister-in-law and I served the dessert. I have been with this group of ladies ever since.

What started as a favor to her has enriched my life in many ways. I began my career as a housekeeper at Freeport Memorial Hospital after high school and have seen many changes of the healthcare industry in my thirty-nine years of employment.

I married my farmer, Jeff, in 1989. I grew up milking cows and hauling hay bales for Dad so I fit right in although they were raising pigs at the time. We have a son Ben and his wife Kim, the middle daughter, Sarah and Tyler is the youngest. They have beef cows on the farm and continue to be involved in the beef industry.

I am active in community organizations besides HCE. The Pearl City Historical Organization, Stephenson County Fair board, Stephenson County HCE Board, the Happy Hours Unit, and The Order of the Eastern Star, Isabel Chapter. Volunteering at school functions when the children were in school allowed me to see the how important it is to step in and help when a person can.

I am attending Highland Community College in the field of Hospitality (hotel management). In fact my instructor is letting me use the district director for my Internship. Some words that best describe me are adaptability, responsibility, restorative, empathy and discipline.

The best way to contact me is e-mail. I lose my phone a lot! I hope to meet more of you at your Annual Meetings and the District Meeting in August.

A quote from Mark Twain that fits me today
"The secret of getting ahead is getting started".

Becky



Cara Ausmus, left, Past District 1 Director, and newly installed District 1 Director, Becky Thomas, right, at Annual Conference 2018.

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

MERCER.....

Sara Kenny visits Mercer County

Sara Kenny, International Homemaker Exchange from Australia, spent 4 days with us in Mercer County. She was a guest in the home of Victor and Susan DeBlock, Viola, IL. Susan is a member of the Aledo Nights Unit of the Home and Community Education in Mercer County.

Monday night, March 26, we (Cara Ausmus, Susan DeBlock, and Donna Pringer) along with our husbands and Harry Fisher, Cara's brother, had supper with Sara at the Packing House in Galesburg, IL. What a wonderful time with Sara!

Harry had spent a semester during college in western Australia. Sara was very interested in all the places that Harry knew about in her country. They discussed several cities that he mentioned. She was pleased to meet someone who had memories of her country and could share them with her.

She wanted to learn about our county from the perspective of each one of us. We discussed farming ventures and other ventures of the county, but when she came to my husband, Bill, he told her that he lived on the Mississippi River his entire life, she wanted to know all about his river adventures, fishing, boating and all things glorious of the Upper Mississippi River. She couldn't wait to see the river for herself! Mindful that it is the river to all of us who live in western Mercer County, but to everyone else—it is The Mississippi River! Sara's "must see" came when Victor was taking a load of grain to one of the grain elevators located in several towns along the river.

Then she told us of her life in Australia. We learned about the raising of sheep and tending flocks of 1000 and more. She related the difference breeds on their "farm"—to us it would be a ranch, what with 3000 sheep on 7000 acres! Holy Cow! I mean sheep! She also spoke of the water shortage at different times of the seasons, and the fact that the sheep must receive adequate feed but also receive extra water through a man-made system as well, in their area of Australia drought is common during most years.

She also went on to tell us about shearing each sheep and the quality of wool that each pelt a particular sheep might have—different sheep might have different textures of wool bought by various textile manufacturers. They also eat much of the meat from their sheep as do we eat beef and pork. As lamb is a delicacy in our country, it is a staple in Australia; however, only particular lambs are kept for consumption.

On Tuesday, March 27, Susan invited her HCE unit for lunch and an afternoon with Sara learning about more of the life in Australia. On Wednesday, March 28, MCHCE sponsored a luncheon and education session with Sara at the Aledo Fire Department Station.

I hope that you have met Sara in your county when she was scheduled to visit because she is quite personable as

well as having a wealth of information that is particular to Australia. She is also an excellent representative of HCE and public relations person.



Knox County ladies help at the luncheon and educational session.

NOTE: The following is an excerpt of an article written by columnist John Marx after an interview with Sara Kenny.

Donna Pringer
Public Relations, Mercer County

HCE tries to make life better

Mercer County group has been meeting for 101 years



JOHN MARX

Aledo—Inside a gorgeous, meticulously kept fire station, nestled in the center of the coolest communities going, history was happening.

As it has done for 101 years, the Association for Home and Community Education—the Mercer County chapter—was gathering, sharing and spreading information through education.

Color me red in the face: I didn't even know there was an HCE in Mercer County, that is was actually the first group of the kind to form in Illinois. But that pesky (just kidding) Kankakee group turned in its charter paperwork an eyelash before it to nab the sport for the longest-running HCE in the state.

The nice folks from the Mercer County group even shared there was an outstanding HCE chapter in Rock Island County.

I also learned 12 HCE groups statewide have been making a difference for more than 100 years. That 9 million members worldwide that fall under the HCE umbrella, 6,500 in Illinois and 43 in Mercer County.

HCE members work to enhance family well-being, health and safety, cultural arts, food and nutrition, textile and clothing, home furnishing/design, horticulture, environmental concerns, international study, community outreach, leadership development, consumer concerns and public policy issues.

Think about this: For more than a century, the Mercer County HCE has been a vital partner in the success of a community.....

John Marx is a columnist for The Dispatch and the Rock Island Argus.

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

ROCK ISLAND.....

Although January and February brought more than the usual amount of snow, sleet, rain, wind and flooded roads, Rock Island County HCE members were able to get in touch with their past customers for our annual plant sale. By March our sales totaled 5,147 Geranium plants ordered. We always appreciate the great help we receive from the local 4-H clubs. When the plants arrive the first of May, our big job of sorting, counting and getting the correct amounts and colors to those who ordered takes place, over two days. Through trial and error over the past years we have developed a plan that works well. Again, we appreciate the County Fair Board who lets us use one of their buildings to do this.

Three members of our Board and a Unit member were able to make the trip to the IAHCE Annual Conference. Upon their return we heard some good reports; well organized, good Share Shops, professional-looking Culture Arts items, sounds as if it was well worth the long ride.

Our Lessons for Living are completed for the year. Both the "Food and Drug Interaction" and "Caregiver-Self Care" lessons gave helpful up-to-date information for those in attendance. Our last lesson for 2017-2018 followed the State Topic. The owner of a local store which specializes in selling locally grown produce provided the lesson, "Eat Local, Eat Healthy". He explained how he started growing and selling his own produce and then expanding to sell from a 90-mile radius of the Quad-City area. The small deli in the store provided us with sampling.

To end our year, the Rock Island County HCE will hold its annual meeting on Saturday morning June 23rd. We are urging our local units to come enjoy some food and hear about upcoming things, and our 2018 theme "Celebrate at the Crossroads"

Plans are in the works for an early summer bus trip to White Pines theater and play on June 25th. The Rock Island County Fair takes places July 17th-21st and as for the past few years our HCE Unit will have a recycling room. It is amazing the amount of items members bring to offer to other. By then we will be ready for a break and to enjoy the rest of the summer. Enjoyable summer to you as well!

Mary Lou Ecker
Public Relations, Rock Island County



The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the ability to reach it.

STEPHENSON.....



Cub Foods Brat Stand—Freeport. SCAHCE members manning the brat stand.

Starting in mid-March and into November, the Cub Foods store in Freeport provides non-profit groups the opportunity to run their brat stand (in front of their store) on Friday and Saturday (11 am-5 pm). All the profits benefit the organization manning the stand that particular weekend.

This is quite a popular lunch destination for many residents to get a great sandwich (rib-eye steak, pork chop, burger, hot dog, brat) at a reasonable price. In February, you submit your organization's application at the store, and if you are lucky enough to get a weekend (due to popularity--once every two to three years) then you get to run the stand and keep the profits. SCAHCE ran the stand on November 3 and 4, and with the help of our members (and a few non-member volunteers) we boosted our treasury!

On Monday, November 27, several of our HCE members met at the Freeport Public Library to decorate our Christmas tree for the annual Festival of Trees, which is a community event sponsored by Freeport Health Network (FHN). The theme for 2017 was "Snowflakes Are One of Nature's Most Fragile Things--But Just Look What They Can Do When They Stick Together"---By Vesta M. Kelly. For the last several years at Christmastime, non-profit organizations have been invited to participate in a tree decorating competition at the library--a beautiful holiday display for the public! Plus, the top trees receive a monetary prize to help their organization!



SCAHCE 2017 Christmas Tree Entry at the Library.



SCAHCE December 7, 2017 Potluck

*L-R:
Arlene Hoomes,
Diana Ethridge,
Kris Penticoff,
Judy Prasse,
and
Ann Runkle.*



DISTRICT 1 NEWS

➡ Stephenson County, continued

On Wednesday, December 7, we held our monthly board meeting at the decorated home of SCAHCE 2nd Vice-President, Sandra Kubatzke. After the business meeting, we all enjoyed a delicious Christmas potluck, plus lots of lively conversation during and after the meal.

In February, we held another workday at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau to assemble and sew more fidget quilts. There continues to be an ongoing demand for these quilts in our community. Our HCE members are trying to fill that need by volunteering their time and skills to sew more unique quilts for donation to dementia and "special needs" individuals--whether still in a home-setting or a nursing home facility.

Ten members from Stephenson County HCE traveled south to Effingham for the IAHCE 94th Annual Conference (March 13 -15). We attended many of the interesting share shops, meetings, luncheons, dinners, and the Elsie Mies Banquet. We participated in Cultural Enrichment with four items, and items were donated (and purchased) at Silent Auction. Many of us volunteered at conference--Cultural Enrichment, Silent Auction, etc. Of course, we were able to visit with many HCE members from all over Illinois!



Back row L-R: Sandra Kubatzke, Marilyn DeVries, Judy Prasse, Janice Fryer, Carla Meyer and Diana Ethridge.
Front row L-R: Becky Thomas, Lila Miche, Majorie Lott and Ann Runkle.

At the Tuesday evening Awards Banquet, Stephenson County received five educational awards--plus we were honored to accept the fourth place award for 2017 County of the Year!

During the Elsie Mies Day Luncheon, our own Stephenson County HCE member, Becky Thomas, was installed as our new District 1 Director. Congratulations, Becky!

All-in-all, I think we enjoyed our "Celebrations at the Crossroads" 2018 Conference!

HAVE A GREAT SPRING AND SUMMER!

Janice Fryer
Public Relations, Stephenson County

WARREN.....

Happy Spring, finally!!! We're outside again and working in our gardens/yards. All our Units are meeting monthly again, after a winter break. One Unit dissolved as of January 1, with the 4 remaining members moving over to Mailbox status for now. They hope to join another unit, just haven't decided which to move into.

Diane Fedorow and Diane Carlson attended State Conference in March and really enjoyed it, good food, fun, and seeing old friends. All of our membership was given a pamphlet about IAHCE so we can share/promote this organization with friends & family.

Spring finds us planning for our 1st All-County Program, open to the public. This was held on 4/14/18 at the Monmouth Library Building with two topics: **Geneology & Scrapbooking**. Then, on 5/5/18 we offered a class on **Tatting**, after receiving several inquiries about this craft. Both classes were being held on Sat., hopefully to appeal to those who are busy during the week.

June 23 is our **International Brunch**. **Diane Carlson**, our Director, is planning the food, speaker and activities for this special event. Our membership always participates on this special day.

4-H has been busy, with 63 members & family enjoying a **Family Fun night** in March. Then, in April, there was a **"Raise Your Hand"** computer contest for \$20,000 prize. Voting was held via a Website. Let's keep our kids involved! **June 5** is their **4-H BBQ**, which is their big moneymaker event of the year. The youth really work hard and long to feed everyone. HCE supports this by baking pies, helping defray expenses.

Peg Chambers
Public Relations, Warren County

**Warren County HCE - District 1
received gift**

**In recognition of
Greatest Average Year 2017
Statewide per Member Contribution to
Pennies for Friendship**



\$8.41

Gift donated by IAHCE officer

DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

DISTRICT 2/3 DIRECTOR Kathy Peterson



Happy Spring to all of you!

I wasn't able to attend the IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham and I really missed visiting with you.

I look forward to the Workshop in August and seeing you then.

DISTRICT 1 AND 2/3 WORKSHOP
August 7, 2018
United Methodist Church, Sycamore, IL

Kathy



DE KALB.....

Spring Greetings from DeKalb County

In the Fall 2017, we were busy with several community services projects. We collected gentle used and/or new shoes to help with the county 4-H Foundation's fund raising project. These shoes will help others in developing countries start micro-businesses that will create a sustainable income for their families plus it will keep the shoes out of the landfills.

Shoes for DeKalb County 4H Foundation fund raiser



Books collected for Bookcase

With the assist of our fund raiser at our District meeting in August and the generosity of the delegates, we contributed to the Sycamore/DeKalb Bookcase Project. This project was established to encourage young people to read by giving children their very own bookcase (including a plate with the child's name) stocked with about 30 books each. We donated funds toward the building of 3 bookcases and collected about 250 books.

The Sycamore Lions Club has sponsored the annual Pumpkin Fest (Halloween weekend) for decades and encourages everyone to submit decorated pumpkins to be displayed on the courthouse lawn. As a way to promote ourselves, we have entered pumpkins in the organization

division the last 3 years. This year's theme was "Pumpkins thru the Decades" so how could we represent ourselves following this theme. We selected "Rosie the Riveter" for the 40s representing that "We can do it" spirit: a mod mom from the 60s/70s complete with flowers, love beads and granny glasses: and with the release of Wonder Woman in 2017 what better way to show what Wonder Women we are today. Lo and behold – we got 1st!!!! We even got \$10 for winning (along with a 1st place orange ribbon – it is pumpkin fest after all) which we put towards the Bookcase Project.



Our 1st place entry in the Sycamore Pumpkin Fest

Barn Quilts are the rage so for our fall membership/ birthday party, we had a local speaker talk about the history of the various quilt blocks including those of the Underground Railroad which decorates a barn of one of our members, how to make your own barn quilt and a power point presentation of the various barn quilts around DeKalb County. Table decorations were patchwork table runners done by members.



Barn Quilt Presenter Jean Klock (right) with Sycamore Tea Timer member Marla Wallace

Various quilt block coloring sheets were provided for guests to color in their own quilt blocks.

We had a mini craft show as members were encouraged to bring their craft items from cross stitch to paintings.

Betty Fewell
Public Relations, DeKalb County



YOU NEED ONLY TWO TOOLS IN LIFE,
WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE.
IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD,
USE WD-40
IF IT MOVES AND SHOULDN'T,
USE DUCT TAPE.

DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

DU PAGE.....

Our county has had a busy fall and winter. Members participated in the Holiday Craft workshop, Community service project cards for veterans at Hines Hospital and Christmas napkin favors for nursing homes.

Our International Tea at the DuPage Extension office was well attended. Our country of study featured the Philippines. Marge Steinhoff, our International Director, introduced Christine Dunne, the “Watts of Love” Ambassador. Christine gave an inspiring talk about the need of solar light in the Philippines for safety, education and health problems. Our county donated money for their needs. Desserts served were made from Philippine recipes.



During this busy season, we had our Annual Holiday Tea; members attending donated can goods for the needy. We had fun at the Christmas Bunco held at the Extension Office.



We participated in the 4-H International Night at the fairgrounds. Well over 300 attended. Our booth featured facts about the Philippines.

A group of members attended the lesson on “Caregiver Self-Care” at the Extension office.

Seven members attended the IAHCE in Effingham. It was great to see some friends from other counties again and have fun. More members are planning on attending next year.



2018 IAHCE Conference—DuPage County
L-R: Mary Lambert, Marge Steinhoff, Mylon and Carolyn Fisher, Anita Masters, Pat Quetsch and Rita Seeling.

We continue to give of our time to the community and church.

Mary Lambert
President, DuPage County

GRUNDY.....

Hooray!! Spring is here!!!

During the fall and winter months our Grundy County units were busy. We had picnics, walks in the park, award ceremonies and 3 unit fun and informational programs.

We received an award from the Grundy County 4-H committee for helping the 4-H program in our county.



*Anthony Womack,
4-H Leader and
President - Patricia
Buchholtz*

Some of us went to a chocolate demo, from the Fine Arts Guild of Grundy County, yummy and the samples were Oh so good! If anyone would like the recipes please let me know. They are very easy! I didn't put in any photos because you would be drooling all over the page.

In November we had a 3 unit meeting with two speakers, Gina and Chris talking about organ donation. We learned a lot of information on this issue, some we knew and more that we did not. It was very informative

*Some from the Nettle
Creek unit enjoyed
going to see “42nd
Street” at Drury Lane
in Oak Brook.*



*Nettle Creek
Christmas luncheon in
a downtown
restaurant in Morris.
We always enjoy
dressing up
and going out.*

*This Christmas the
Nettle Creek Unit
donated to the
Charity, “Hands of
Dignity and Hope
Outreach”.*



DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

They help families who have fallen through the cracks for government help and seniors and families who run out of money for necessary home supplies.



Morris Morning Unit had a Christmas Brunch

Our Book Club finished reading *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore; and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. For the months of December through March, we will be reading *Merry and Bright* by Debbie Macomber; *To Be Where You Are* by Jan Karon; *Tea Girl* from Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See; and *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware.

In the book "To Be Where You Are" one of our members baked the OMC (Orange Marmalade Cake) for us to enjoy. What a special treat!



Here are some of the books we will be reading - *Mutant Message Down Under* by Marlo Morgan; *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate; *The Story off Authur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg; *Between Six Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys; *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn; and *True Fiction* by Lee Goldberg.

Looking forward to the spring and summer and flowers galore. I need something bright and sunny after the months of winter.



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—Grundy County

L-R. Seated: *Debbie Sole, Betty Pierce, Kay Bonneur, Ruth O'Hara*
 Standing: *Yvonne Canik, Patricia Buchholtz, Monica Evans*

Monica Evans
 GCHCE Public Relations

KANE.....

Kane County HCE joyously welcomed 2018 with the news that Nancy Haire had been selected to host the CWW representative from Australia, Sara Kenny. Preparations and plans for the itinerary were discussed at each Board meeting. Sara arrived in Kane County March 7th. She and Pat Weitzmann were guests of honor at the "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" Red Hat Society luncheon. That day and the two that followed were a whirl wind of activity.

Sara visited the Kelm Grain Farm in Genoa, met the Plato Center Unit members, spent a day in Chicago and walked the tour of tall buildings, enjoyed a family dinner, toured Fermi Lab and had a "Meet and Greet" with the Kane County HCE membership. A lovely luncheon was prepared by the Board and Sara then presented her country in slides and narration. Lastly was a tour at the Muirhead House, the only farmhouse that Frank Lloyd Wright ever designed. Reluctantly we departed for the drive to Ottawa where Sara met her next family, the Martin's. We lamented that we didn't have time to show Sara more of Kane County.

Our attendance at the IAHCE Annual Conference was depleted as Naomi Redman had surgery the Sunday morning before our departure on Monday. Kathy Kolakowski's exhibit of "Hot Air Balloons" counted cross stitch received a Superior award. Chris Patsch, Cultural Enrichment Director achieved an Educational Award for the Potawatomi Riverboat tour report. Mari Curless's accounting work on volunteer hours rewarded Kane County with three awards in the membership and volunteer hours recognition. Kudos to the state committees for a fine conference with great speakers, sessions, food and over all incredible three days.

Australia was the country of study for our International Day on March 22nd. We learned more and enjoyed an outstanding program with Ron, a native Australian and his partner Sandy, an American performer. Ron took us on a tour of Australia through music, dance, slides and narrative. His interactive presentation had HCE members singing along to "Waltzing Matilda" and other Australian based music. Included in the days' program were the annual fundraising silent auction, 50/50 raffle and an ethnic luncheon. Special guest Pat Weitzmann promoted her new position with the Associated Country Women of the World.

Kane County will welcome Louella Parsons, portrayed by Martina Mathisen, a professional reenactor for the "Golden Days of Hollywood" at the Annual Meeting, May 16th, Eaglebrook Country Club, Geneva, Illinois. The day will commence with a business meeting, election of officers and awards for programs and activities. Following lunch, Louella will entertain as well as inform us of Hollywood "goings on." We invite you to join us, call Elaine Bond at 630-584-6019.



DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

➡ Kane County, continued

Right: Sara attended an Plato Unit HCE meeting in the home of Nancy Haire.

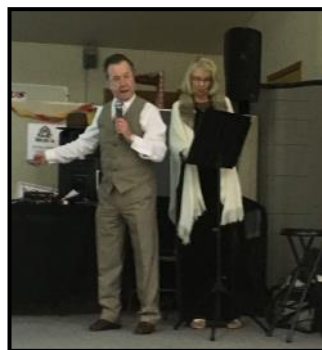


Above: Kane County "Meet and Greet" Luncheon buffet, officers, Mari Curless, Mary Veach, Pat Kowalkowski and member Joyce Harner

Right: "Meet & Greet" Registration Table



Right: Australian performers, "Ron and Sandy" music, dance, films, information.



Left: Red Hat Society, "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" at Claim Jumpers Restaurant, Hoffman Estates, Elaine Rath, Joan Ziethen (HCE), Sara, Polly Hubbs (HCE), Pat Weitzmann and Jackie Anderson (HCE)



Sara with the Red Hat Society

Nancy Haire
Public Relations Director, Kane County

KENDALL.....



Kendall County HCE had two quilt workshops during Spring break for 4-H: Carol Hopkins was a long-time HCE member and 4-H and Youth Director. After she suddenly passed away in January, a large box of quilt pieces that had been worked on at HCE workshops for charity quilts were purchased at her estate sale. 4-Hers were able to pick out already cut squares to make a 9-patch quilt block--most had never sewed before. They were told they could take these blocks home, and some made them into a pillow. The many other quilt blocks were arranged in baby-sized quilts and when finished will be given to the Kendall County Health Department.

Joan McEachern
President, Kendall County

LAKE.....

Hello and Greetings from Lake County! Happy Spring! Or is it?! We have had some unusually cold temperatures here in Lake County in the month of April. I hope that by the time you receive this newsletter, the temperatures will be warmer, flowers will be blooming, and as the saying goes, "April Showers bring May Flowers!" Now, here I am once again reporting to you from Lake County, starting in November.

November 10, 2017, University of Illinois presented to the LCAHCE members a Lesson for Living titled "Financial Elder Exploitation". This program was about how older adults are at risk for financial exploitation. Abusers can be friends, caregivers, financial advisors, and even family members. The program also focused on recognizing and reducing the risk of financial exploitation for yourself, your friends and older relatives. Resources and strategies were shared with the HCE members. There were five members in attendance for this program.

International Day was a wonderful success. The event was held at the University of Illinois Extension Office in Grayslake, on November 16, 2017.

DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

Many people were thanked for their time and talent. A special thank you went to Gloria Venzon, who was the speaker for the day. She really went above and beyond to help us have a successful day. She provided recipes and taught Margaret Hilliard, International Director, how to cook Pancit. Margaret thanked the International Committee, all International Directors, the American Unit and Volo Unit for helping to make the Philippine luncheon delicious. They did many hands on work to make our main dish. The event could not have happened without them.

It was very nice to share the day with so many guests and let them know about our great organization. The Lake County Board were also thanked for their continued support for these events. They have wonderful ideas and are always present to lend a hand. We had sixty-four members attend this wonderful event.



Flags representing the "Philippines"



L-R: Margaret Hilliard, Gloria & Raul Venzon

LCAHCE held their 25th Annual Holiday Cookie Sale, Saturday, December 9, 2017, at the Lake County Extension Office. All the Units baked an assortment of cookies. In spite of the snow, our regular faithful customers braved the weather and came out to support us. Our final total for this annual fundraiser was \$1,334.00. Margaret Hilliard, Ways and Means, thanked all the Units for their participation and thanked the ones who gave donations.



On February 7, 2018, University of Illinois presented a program to the HCE members: **"Food and Drug Interactions"**. This Educator-taught lesson walked through food groups and discussed how some foods can affect certain drugs, such as enhancing or decreasing their effect. This lesson also covered the increased awareness of how fortified foods and supplements can modify a drug's effect. Caitlin Huth, the Educator for this lesson, presented scenarios as an activity to the group. Six members attended this program.

Lake County has officially started the International Year of study 2018 with Australia. The Board met with State

Exchange Guest, Sara Kenny, at Margret Hilliard's home on March 5. Sara and her family are farmers in the area near Perth. She is a wife and mother to three daughters and one son. She also enjoys seeing her eleven grandchildren on a regular basis. She is the kind of person you like right away with a great sense of humor and very gracious. Sara gave a presentation at State Conference.



Board had breakfast with Sara at Margaret's home
Left to Right: Margaret Hilliard, Pat Weitzmann, Candace Keegan, Carmella Marshall, Sara Kenny, Sandy Henke and Betty Wertke.

Another interesting Lesson for Living was presented at the University of Extension Office, in Grayslake, on March 20, 2018, titled **"Caregiver Self-Care"**. This lesson focused on how to overcome the challenges of caregiving and examined caregiver stress, burnout, - how to recognize them and how to prevent it with techniques for self-care. There were seven HCE members in attendance for this program and all of them either experienced being a caregiver themselves or has a caregiver coming into their home.

Eight LCAHCE members from Lake County attended the 2018 IAHCE Conference in Effingham, IL. Angela Hicks, President, and Second Vice President for the State Board; Carmella Marshall, Second Vice President; Sandra Henke, Treasurer; Candace Keegan, Secretary; Margaret Hilliard, International Director; Dianne Glozier, Newsletter Editor/Public Relations; Pat Weitzmann, International Director for the State Board; Jane Ellen Keroson, former First Vice President and Unit President for Hickory Knoll.



IAHCE Annual Conference—Lake County
Front L-R: Dianne Glozier, Jane Ellen Keroson, Margaret Hilliard
Top Row: Candace Keegan, Pat Weitzmann, Angela Hicks, Sandy Henke, Carmella Marshall

DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

→ Lake County, continued



Margaret Hilliard was given an award for **“Country of Study: Philippines.”**

Congratulations Margaret!



RoseAnn Rendl won First Place in her category, Wall Hangings, for Cultural Enrichment.

“Congratulation RoseAnn!”



Angela Hicks won First Place in her category, Jewelry (Handmade) for Cultural Enrichment.

“Congratulations Angela!”

Well that is all I have for now. Everyone have a GREAT Spring and Summer. You will hear back from me in August!

Dianne Glozier
Newsletter Editor/Public Relations, Lake County

On April 7th we will be having a Heritage Craft Day. They have planned four projects to be done. In the morning the choices are Corn Husk Doll or String Art Greeting Card. Lunch will be offered. The afternoon session will be an Alcohol Ink Necklace or Chicken Scratch Embroidered Heart Satchet.

Many more fun programs will be planned for the rest of the year. Our Year of Celebration is under way.

Till next time. Have a good & safe summer.

Darlene Hettel
Public Relations, LaSalle County

LIVINGSTON.....

Livingston County HCE hosted Super Saturday at the Pontiac Bible Church. Three training sessions were offered: Miniature Gardens, 5 Ingredient Fix and Hearing Loss.



Sandy Knight gives a presentation on Miniature Gardens at Super Saturday

After the sessions, those attending were invited to tour downtown Pontiac via the trolley. The riding tour included viewing several murals, Lincoln locations, Pontiac Community Art Center and the various museums in town. These included the Historical Society Museum, Gilder's Museum, Route 66 Museum and the War Museum. Also, all three historical houses were on view: Yost house, Jones house and Strevelle house. The bus stopped at the Dong Bai International Art School where they viewed the artwork including his glow in the dark dresses and air-brush vehicles. Riders were encouraged to come back after the riding tour to see the places close up.

Livingston County HCE will be celebrating their hundred-year anniversary on April 16 at the Eagle Theater in Pontiac. Besides the meeting, participants will enjoy a catered meal and a program on Albert Cashier who was a woman from Saunemin who, hiding her identity enlisted in the Civil War as a soldier.

There are several ongoing projects for the county. A favorite that has support from all the units is making fleece blankets to be given to Salem 4 Youth - a boys school in Flanagan, Illinois. The blankets are given as a reward for good behavior. Clients from Futures Unlimited tie the blankets that have been cut by HCE members.

Connie Kostelc
Public Relations, Livingston County

LA SALLE.....

The LaSalle County Home and Community Education started their 100th year celebration with an Open House on January 25th on the day of the first meeting that was held in 1918. We served cake, punch, coffee and tea. Carol Elmore and Becky Kendall had made up posters for every decade we've been around. They found a lot of information on the organization. There was 21 women that had started 100 years ago.

In March, we hosted Sara Kenny from Perth, Australia. Sara stayed with Sandy & Paul Martin in their home. Sandy took her to Brad Temple's sheep farm and Judy Rosengren's farm. They also visited Seneca High School and their Farm. Starve Rock State Park was another visit. We ended the visit with The Taste of Australia.

Australian food was served and enjoyed by all. Carol Elmore gave a talk on her visit to Sydney, Australia and Sara finished up with her life in Perth. From there Sandy took her to the State Conference in Effingham.

DISTRICT 2/3 NEWS

DID YOU KNOW?

Juliet Lita Bane was born in LIVINGSTON COUNTY in 1878. She was a graduate of the University of Illinois. Miss Bane was considered one of the better known home economist of her time. She is best known for her writing of "An Aim for the Homemaker" in 1919.

- To have every home an institution which is:
- economically sound
 - physically healthful
 - morally wholesome
 - mentally stimulating
 - spiritually inspiring
 - artistically satisfying
 - socially responsible
 - a center of unselfish love

In 1922, the aim was copyrighted for framing as the aim written today. In 1936, Miss Bane was head of the Home Economics at the University of Illinois. Juliet Bane died in February 1957.

From "The Chatter", Carol Froeschl, Editor
Champaign County

MC HENRY.....

I hope all you ladies and gentlemen had a wonderful time at the conference. Again this year I was unable to make it due to my husband's health

We have been busy getting ready for 100th Anniversary which will be held April 25th at Starline in Harvard, IL. Starline or otherwise known as Starline Manufacturing was built in 1883 by Hunt, Helm & Ferris housed its foundry shops and assemble line converting raw material into a variety of products ranging from farm equipment to sled and coaster wagons, but now it has been restored to an art and event venue. We felt this was a great place to have our annual meeting since it's old like us, and historic like our organization. Did you know McHenry County is the second oldest women's organization in the Country and we are proud on of it!



HCE Day Tea

*Seated: Marian Lang, Pattie Sautter, Mary Ellen Goodin
Standing Carol Giammattei, Carol Hanson, Betty Kubat,
Leona Rinn, Marlene Rader, Jean Pieroni, Christel
Mueller, Barbara Freeman & Judy Corsen*

HCE Day and Tea Luncheon was held October 25 at the University of IL Extension. In the morning our members showed off the projects that they had completed during the year. The salad luncheon and tea was highlighted with a demonstration by Karen Wootten on the language of a fan during the Victorian period.

International Day was in November. Each member brought in a different Philippine dish that they had made, the food was interesting but good. After lunch we were shown a film on the Philippine Islands.

We had two great programs in November and February with a great turnout from our members, the public and Master Gardeners. The programs were Environmental Issue & Education given by the McHenry County Environmental Defenders, and Flea Market Gardening given by Master Gardener Melena Buck.

We have been making walker bags for Pioneer Center for Human Services and our area nursing homes. Quilted lap quilts were given to project Linus.



Walker Bags

L-R: Christel Mueller, Lori Latlanzo (Pioneer for Human Services staff member) and Florence Spesard



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—McHenry County

Happy Spring,

Florence Spesard
Public Relations & CVH Chairman, McHenry County

DISTRICT 4 NEWS



DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR Mary Eustace

“Celebration at the Crossroads” was indeed an awesome conference. Nothing like spending time with 350 HCE ladies learning new things and eating – eating – eating together. There are so many wonderful things about our organization that I love. I am proud to be an HCE member.

Being on the IAHCE State Board has given me a renewed perspective of the work this organization does for our communities throughout the state. And why the volunteer hours done by our members in one year is outstanding and very generous.

I am completing the last year of my term on my journey as your District 4 Director. I have enjoyed all of it and have loved all the wonderful HCE members that I have become friends with. I am looking forward to training a new director so she can too enjoy the riches of this job.

Enjoy your spring and summer. I am looking forward to August Workshops to seeing all of you again. There’s nothing quite as powerful as people feeling they can have an impact and make a difference in this world. ***I have the spirit – how about you?***

Mary



ADAMS

It is the end of March and the calendar shows us that spring arrived, but mother nature sure gave the tri-state area an Easter April Fool’s Joke. How about that beautiful snow storm? Let us hope that April showers will bring May flowers. Here is what Adams County has been up to since the last newsletter.

Quincy Tumbleweeds Unit hosted a Game Night with the Quinsippi Unit 4-H / Clover Bud members on November 13. Members in attendance rotated around the room to play Bingo, Yahtzee, Farkel, and UNO. This year there was an added event, the coloring corner, which was a hit for both the young and old.



Coloring Corner Participants

Following their game playing all were welcomed to share in the assortment of finger food refreshments provided by the Quincy Tumbleweed ladies.

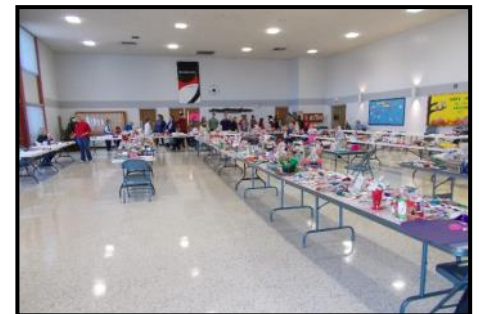
Susan Sprague our Cultural Enrichment Director helped members get ready for the Christmas Holiday Season by scheduling a “Card Making and Cookbooks” event on Friday, Nov 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Basement. The invitation was open to drop in anytime. Susan had available a wide variety of items to use in making cookbooks, note cards, Christmas cards, and gift tags. It was for sure an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill or get some ideas.

Board Co-President, Judy Milfs



During the month of November, Unity Nite Unit showed their appreciation to the local volunteer fire departments by making and delivering cookies at their scheduled monthly November meetings. Connie Bealor and Pam Shaffer delivered to Ursa. Ruth Evans and Kay Peter delivered to Mendon. Pat Donley and Mary Ann Peter delivered to Loraine. Linda Duncan and Judy McCleary delivered to Lima.

On December 2nd, we held our 29th Annual Kiddie Bazaar (pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade children). The bazaar was held in three different locations simultaneously – Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, Payson Grade School, and Camp Point United Methodist Church. HCE members donated hundreds of gifts from 50 cents to \$4 that children could purchase for family members. The total net income was \$2,457.00 (each Adams County HCE Unit Treasurers received income checks). It was once again a very successful experience for our little shoppers!



*Ready Set Go ...
Volunteers Await
Little Shoppers
at Salem
Fellowship Hall
in Quincy, Illinois*

The year 2018 kicked off with planning for our 100th year of HCE in Adams County and finalizing arrangements for our annual dinner/meeting. Each of the units have been asked to write an article to share the history of their unit to be featured in the Adams County Newsletter, “The ACORN”. On April 24 at St. Brigid Church we will be hosting our annual meeting/dinner and on the menu is birthday cake. In addition, during October HCE Month, we will be hosting a county-wide 100th Anniversary Celebration!

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

On February 24, we held our 4th Annual Adams County HCE Flapjack Fund Raiser at Applebee's in Quincy, IL. Applebee's employees cooked the food and our ladies became waiters. Participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and beverages. Even though it was a rainy day, the event was once again successful. We are hoping to hold this event on February 23, 2019. A reservation request has been submitted, but confirmation is pending.

*Volunteers Visit
and Discuss
Strategy
Before Doors
Open*



Our Exercise Committee -- Pat Lawber, Nadine Preston, and Mary Voorhis, developed a program that included three (3) chair exercise classes to help our membership, who were unable for health issues, to participate in the WALK AROUND ADAMS COUNTY fitness program. Classes were scheduled on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Basement. The classes were conducted much like the Lessons for Living. The first class began in October, the second class was held in November, and the last class was conducted on March 1. These chair exercise classes were presented with the hope of giving ladies the opportunity to become active and thus improve their health. The classes were also intended as an incentive to our members to do exercises geared to their needs because for one reason or another they were unable to walk and exercise the usual way.

Adams County had three representatives attend the 94th Annual IAHCE State Conference held March 13-15 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham,

Special Interest Groups

HCE Book Club

The Book Club meets on 3rd Wednesday of the month. The following books were discussed since the last newsletter: November – “Two for the Dough” by Janet Evanovich; December – “The Blight Way” by Patrick F. McManus; January – “The Rosie Project” by Graeme Simson; February – “Waiting for Snow in Havana” by Carlos Eire; and March – “The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu” by Joshua Hammer. Scheduled before summer break we have in April - “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah and May – “Jayber Crow” by Wendell Barry.

HCE Quilt League

The Quilt League meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our ladies have been busy assembling squares to complete quilts for the Honor Flight. A quilt is also

being made for a quilt raffle during Adams County 100th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, October 18. Half of the profits from the quilt raffle will go to the HCE Scholarship Fund. In addition, they have been making clothing protectors for the Illinois Veteran's Home and have begun making pillow cases for Chaddock School to be given away at Christmas.

HCE Card & Game Club

The Card & Game Club meets the 4th Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Basement. Anyone who loves to play cards & games should mark their calendars and plan to attend. Bring your friends and neighbors, public is welcome! RSVP to either Camie Hempelman, (217) 222-4365, wayncam@comcast.net; or Sharon Beedle, (217) 224-0709, sharonretired0818@yahoo.com.

On a closing note for this issue, our ladies are looking forward to our 55th Annual Dinner/Meeting at the St. Brigid Catholic Church on April 24 in Liberty, Illinois. In addition, the Adams County Board will be setting their eyes on the IAHCE District 4 Workshop to be held on August 8 in Bloomington, Illinois. As the Adams County Public Relations Director for the last three years, this will be my last article for the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education Newsletter. Thank you! Wishing each of you an enjoyable spring and summer!

Leslie Geschwandner
Public Relations Director, Adams County

PIKE.....

Expressing Appreciation! HCE units continue to honor local first responders. Sonya Bishop, left, presented the sign for the Pittsfield police department and the new firehouse to policeman on duty, Shane Allen. A gift of cookies and sweet bread added to the appreciation of their efforts.

Sonya Bishop and Shane Allen



The HCE board met February 12 with information given by Mary Eustace and Ann Ferguson about the volunteer hours that were accumulated by 100 members for the 2017 year. Mary reported an increase of 2,000 hours. Mary also reported that made the total of 17,574 hours.

The board made plans to attend the annual meeting in Effingham. Cultural Arts board member, Sonya Bishop, will display seven items in Effingham. Eight items are allowed so this was a good showing for Pike County.



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

➔ Pike County, continued

Scrapbooks were submitted for the international program on the Philippines and one on publicity for the year.

Two \$250 scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate college or technical school students this year. Applicants for the Pike County scholarships must have been a 4-year 4-H member or have a close relative who is a paid three-year HCE member.

A beautiful quilt was presented by Ona Day Johnston, left, to Mary Eustace. Mary had it quilted as a gift for her son.



The following is an excerpt from an article written by Jim Filbert for the Pittsfield news paper:

“That’s what I ought to do out there,” is what Carolyn Casteel said to herself while attending a Home Extension meeting program on Barn Quilts several months ago. The “out there” Casteel was referring to was the west side of the Casteel Color Wheel building along the alley.



There were already two newly placed advertising panels placed on that side of the building and the addition of a Barn Quilt would draw attention to the building “It is a welcome addition to the Pittsfield business district.”

Ann Ferguson
Public Relations, Pike County

SANGAMON.....

Hello to All, we in Sangamon county escaped a harsh winter but are certainly in need of moisture for our farmers' fields. Even though many of our members have experienced a variety of medical issues, others have been very busy praying, creating, building, developing, volunteering, sharing and EATING.

Our units are working for Sadie’s Dream for a Cure – making bags that are filled with crafts and activities for kids with cancer. We are also busy making weighted blankets for kids with autism. These blankets are donated to local school districts. We will be delivering layettes to a local women’s homeless shelter next week. Each layette includes a burb cloth, changing pad, bib, receiving blanket, crocheted hat, crocheted blanket – all items made by our members.

We are involved with our local 4-H group teaching sewing projects over 8 weeks.

We have also been working making items for our new spring fundraiser. We will be selling garden themed items in conjunction with the Master Gardener’s Herb Plant Sale April 27 & 28. We have been busy making notebook covers, butterfly feeders, floral wreaths, fabric covered pots and many more items to sell. We also provide meals for the Master Gardener classes in February, March and April.

We had a wonderful International Day on the Philippines in November. A local doctor and his wife spoke of Christmas traditions in the Philippines. A local community member made several dishes for us to share. She was so impressed with HCE she joined!

Our International excitement continued when member, Mary Johnson, hosted Sara Kenny for several days in March. We had a Meet and Greet Potluck for Sara and were able to show her many sights around central Illinois. We had a wonderful visit with her and enjoyed every minute of our time together.

Needless to say Sangamon county HCE has many plans and will need tireless energy for the next few months to continue our activities in our communities to help those in need.

Right: Australian visitor, Sara Kenny, at our Meet and Greet Potluck.



Above: Canned Goods, mittens and hats collected for local shelters at our Christmas Party.

Right: SAHCE members teaching sewing to local 4-Her’s



Mary Johnson & Kathy Roman
Public Relations, Sangamon County

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

FULTON COUNTY.....

Sara Kenny, our visitor from the farmlands of Western Australia, arrived in Fulton County during a late winter storm on Saturday, March 24th. Our first stop was Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown, a branch of the Illinois State Museum and a National Register Historic Site. One of the United States' major on-site archaeological museums, it allows visitors to explore Native Americans' 12,000-year experience in the Illinois River Valley. Dr. Michael Conner, Associate Curator, took Mrs. Kenny on a fascinating tour of the museum's exhibits of stone tools, pottery, and artifacts.



Nearby Emiquon Nature Preserve was the next stop for Sara. Emiquon had originally been an abundant system of wetlands and lakes. These provided an environment for diverse native plants and animals, which sustained the surrounding Native American villages for 600 generations. The area had been drained early in the 20th century and farmed for nearly 100 years. In 2007, Emiquon became one of the largest floodplain restoration projects in the Midwest and will eventually guide other restoration developments around the world. Director of River Conservation, Doug Blodgett, led Sara on a tour of the areas where the public can enjoy birding, fishing, and other recreational activities throughout the year. She was able to witness biologists conducting scientific experiments in the waters of the lake, as well as view many species of birds. The rain, sleet, and wind that accompanied us did not daunt her enthusiasm for our local environmental project.

Host Cathy Eathington of rural Ellisville joined us for supper at Club 41 in Saint Augustine, to enjoy a mound of their famous crispy onion rings. Sunday morning found us at the Palm Sunday service at the beautiful Catholic Church of Saint Augustine. Sara was delighted at her first encounter with snow and was able to get many pictures of the snow-covered countryside before the snow melted away.

Back at Eathington Farms, our Australian visitor was given a tour of a modern family farm, farm machinery, and an active Angus cattle production. The Angus cattle were of particular interest to her, because she and her husband had raised them in the past. Cathy's grandchildren, Katelyn, Emma, Kyle, and Ella showed Sara their 4-H and FFA livestock projects. Each child explained the care, feeding, and training of their individual Angus cattle.

On Sunday afternoon, Sara spoke to members of Fulton County's Homemakers Education Association and the public, showing photographs from her homeland.

Several audience members had visited Australia and provided Sara with many interesting questions. After the public presentation, Sara donned mud boots and visited the Fisher family sheep farm. Barry, Laura, and daughter Robin gave Sara a tour of several barns filled with various breeds of sheep, two llamas, and one alpaca. Although these sheep farmers were from opposite sides of the world and had herds of vastly different sizes, they were able to share many common problems and experiences. Sara was introduced to many breeds she was unfamiliar with and was able to discuss the changing marketing of lambs and wool with the family.



Supper was enjoyed in the village of London Mills, on the banks of the Spoon River. Sara was introduced to Spoonie's famous tenderloin and to sweet potato fries. Although three people shared one of their giant sandwiches, we were full before we completed our share.

We were up early to enjoy breakfast at the Fairview Café in Fairview, where Sara tasted biscuits and gravy, a new food for her. Soon, we whisked her off to Spoon River Valley high school to speak to Ag teacher, Paula Daniels' FFA students before their first class. The students enjoyed pictures of a land and a farming operation quite different from their own.

Mike Thompson of Western Grain Marketing gave Sara a tour of the grain elevator in Fairview. Since Sara's family's farm raises wheat, canola, and lupins, corn and soybeans are unfamiliar crops to her. She was able to view the area where semis filled with grain unload, where corn is dried, and where overflow corn is stored in a vast building or in an outdoor bunker.

The mud boots were pulled out again for our last tour at the Fairview Sale Barn. Owners Jake and Laura Fidler gave a tour of the facility, which sells livestock during two weekly auctions. Sara was introduced to additional unfamiliar breeds of sheep.

Regretfully, Cathy and I bid farewell to our delightful Australian visitor. We hoped she had learned as much about Illinois rural life as we had about Australian farm life.



Deon Mass, International Director, LaSalle County

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

TAZEWELL.....

Greetings from Tazewell County!

Tazewell/Mason/Peoria County HCE has been working hard to make their 100th anniversary celebration a very special event. Our celebration will be at our annual meeting on May 7th. We will be meeting at a local restaurant for our program and lunch. Special guests include IAHCe President, Jane Chapman; District Director, Mary Eustace; and Mary Johnson who will speak of her experience with the IAHCe Outbound Exchange Program when she went to the Baltic States. After lunch we will travel to the Farm Bureau Building where the extension office is located. We will be dedicating a bench that is being placed there in honor of the 100th anniversary of HCE and also as a memorial to Mary Fouts who was the extension adviser for Tazewell County HCE for twenty years. Following the ceremony, dessert will be served in the auditorium.

We have reached out to some of the long time HCE members to ask them to share their HCE experiences with us. So far, we have had one volunteer and it was a real joy to interview Ina Eckhoff from Tremont, IL. She joined HCE as a young bride and has now been a member for 68 years!

Six ladies from our county attended the state convention held in Effingham. Everyone came home with renewed excitement for HCE and all that it can offer.

We are looking forward to our anniversary and will give you a full report in the next state newsletter!

Vivian Gerrietts and Ina Eckhoff looking at an HCE scrapbook.



Tazewell ladies at 2018 IAHCe Annual Conference

*Front Row: Judy McFarland, Beth Shipley, Kate Schmitgall
Back Row: Vivian Gerrietts, Jan Busche, Darlene Curry*

Darlene Curry
Public Relations, Tazewell County

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR Kathleen Emery



Dear District 5 Members,

As I write this I was going to start with Happy Spring, now that my tulips and daffodils are about 6" tall, my forecast is for snow Easter Sunday and the low next week is 20!

We have just returned from a very successful conference. We had close to 350 attendees and I hope you were one of them. We had great share shops and speakers, wonderful accommodations and beautiful decorations thanks to a great hotel staff. District 5 had a very productive conference. We had 11 out of 13 counties represented, 20 educational awards including County of the Year from Macon County. We also had 60 new members.

I hope as you return to your counties that you can keep the enthusiasm going with your units. Sharon Middleton, our State 1st Vice, is putting together on our state website, programs that will be accessible to anyone looking for one. This should be a great resource for all of us.

I thought a wonderful idea that came out of our District Meeting, in case you weren't there, was this: If you have a local library – see if they can display books that might match your monthly meeting subjects to stimulate more interest in your meetings. Remember also that Support Fund Applications are due on June 1st. These applications can be found on the IAHCe website.

I'm looking forward to being at any of your county meetings and will be glad to install your new officers. Hope to see you soon.

Keep up the great work – I'm proud of you!

Kathleen

**Be sure to visit the 2019
IAHCe CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION**

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

CUMBERLAND.....



Thank you to all those who attended the Annual Meeting. 61% of our total members were present. What a great turnout!

Thank you to Vivian Hallett, Evelyn Sue Icenogle, and Phyllis Sowers for representing Cumberland County by attending the HCE State meeting in Effingham. The Cumberland County HCE was recognized at the State Annual Conference in Effingham on March 13, 2018.

Our county received the Education Award in Cultural Enrichment for the Dresses for Africa project. Special recognition and thank you to Evelyn Sue Icenogle who coordinated this event and prepared the application for this award.



Dresses for Africa Wins Education Award

Evelyn Sue, left, was recognized at the county Annual Meeting on March 19 for her work on the Dresses for Africa project. Vivian Hallett presented her with a certificate.

50 Years of Service

Three ladies from the Neoga Homemakers unit were recognized for their 50 years of continuous membership in Cumberland County HCE



Lorraine Baker, Pat Williamson, and Judy Peters,

Volunteer Hours Award

Debbie Dalrymple, left, was recognized for 500 hours of volunteer service at the State Meeting in Effingham. County Annual Meeting.
50 + Years



Phyllis Sowers was awarded with a special pin and ribbon for her 50 plus years of membership with HCE at the State meeting in Effingham.

Phyllis at the Cumberland County Annual Meeting wearing her ribbon and pin of 50+ years that she received at the State Meeting.



Sue Fitzpatrick, left, president of the Neoga Homemakers, receiving the traveling gravel from Vivian Hallett.

From Extension Unit 19 newsletter

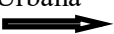
CHAMPAIGN.....

Champaign County HCE held their Annual "Holiday Trees and Craft Sale" show November 10-11 at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. HCE Units entered decorated Christmas Trees and Wreaths with a theme. The sale of the trees/wreaths were by silent auction with the profit of the sale belonging to the individual units. Several members and non-members were vendors selling their handcrafted items. Members made homemade Holiday baked goods to sell. A very enjoyable and successful event.

CCHCE Member Norma Ripkey



Our *International Potluck Luncheon* was held November 29th with the Country of Study "The Philippines". The guest speaker was Father John Flattery entertaining the members with his extensive knowledge of the Philippines. The luncheon was potluck with a few members bringing dishes from the Philippines.

Family and Community Issues reports that the County HCE members continues to keep busy making weighted blankets for autistic children in Champaign County. On April 7th will be the *Disability Expo* at the Vineyard Church in Urbana and on April 21st is the *2018 C-U Autism Walk* 

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

➔ Champaign County, continued

Event at the Champaign County Fair Grounds. At both of these events, Champaign County HCE will have a display and drawings for the weighted blankets. About 30 weighted blankets will be given to families attending these events.

Other *Family and Community Issues* project: Members support are the Developmental Service Center (DSC) group homes in Champaign County. Five CCHCE Units- Mayview Unit, Rantoul Unit, Staley Unit, Early Risers Unit and Bondville/Seymour Unit, are assigned to one of the homes and support the home with activities for the residents by sending cards and letters; giving gift cards and non-food items and favors for the residents on their birthdays and on holidays. Judy French, Family and Community Issues Chairman, has done a great job coordinating this project.

Twelve CCHCE members attended the IAHCE State Conference in Effingham. Champaign County received awards for: 2017 Grand Award for Public Relations in the HCE Week Category for during HCE month with a series of activities designed to celebrate and promote what HCE is all about throughout the county; 2017 Education Award in Family and Community Issues for Outstanding program in the category of Citizenship and Environment; and 2017 Certified Volunteer Award for the Highest number of hours reported 33,803 hours. Melissa Chitwood won the Cultural Enrichment "Best of Show" for her Nature item (pressed/dried flowers in a photo frame).

Award Winners at 94th Annual IAHCE Conference:

Left: *Certified Volunteer Award with highest number*
Luanna Olson

Center: *Family and Community Issues Award*
Judy French

Right: *Public Relations Award*
Carol Froeschl



On Saturday, March 17th, three of our members were invited to spend the day with Sara Kenny, 2018 Home-maker Exchange participant from Australia. We met for lunch at Jo's County Diner in Chesterville. There were 4 ladies from Douglas County HCE and the host family from Sangamon County in attendance. After enjoying a delicious lunch and exchanging ideas and listening to Sara talk about Australia, we went to Beachy's Bulk Food Store in the heart of the Amish County. After buying

several items at the store, we went to an Amish home for delicious homemade pie (banana cream, strawberry fluff and apple pie) by Lorene. Lorene showed us several of her beautiful handmade quilts and enjoyed listening to Lorene talk about her 100 plus year old home. Joseph Marner from Douglas County and also a member of Champaign County made all the arrangements for a lovely day with Sara.

Left to Right:
Marge Probasco,
Sara Kenny,
Lynn Trotter &
Carol Froeschl



On March 22, the County held a Bingo and Game Day at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Lots of great prizes were won by members playing bingo. Members brought lots of delicious snacks for the day. Also members enjoyed playing other games during the day.

May 7th will be Champaign County HCE 100th Annual Meeting and installation of officers at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium. We are planning a Membership event June 20th. We had 14 new members in 2017 and hope to have more new members for 2018.

Champaign County HCE will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary this year. July 7, 2018, we will celebrate our anniversary at the Savoy Methodist Church from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. with special guests and presentations. Three of our Units are celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year: Savoy Unit, Somer Unit and Dewey/Fisher Unit. The Dewey/Fisher Unit is having their celebration on April 16th from 1-3 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Auditorium.

Have a fun and safe summer!

Carol Froeschl,
Public Relations, Champaign County



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—Champaign County

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DEWITT COUNTY.....

Hello from DeWitt County HCEA! Our year started off kind of slow since we did not have a Unit Meeting in January. We have an extra group called "The Lunch Bunch" and they did go to lunch in January, they pick a restaurant each month to have lunch.

In February we went to the Macon County Extension for our Tri County Meeting. We always enjoy seeing the ladies from Macon and Piatt Counties. For our unit meeting in February we had the director, Joey Woolridge, of the C H Moore Homestead come and speak. The Homestead is where the first Apple and Pork Festival was held. After our meeting Linda Long, one of our Cultural Enrichment ladies started something new for us. We are now doing a small craft after the meeting, this month we made a cute refrigerator magnet for St. Patrick's Day.

In March we had five of our members attend the annual conference in Effingham. Those attending were Judie Knoth, Lucretia Crawford, Betty Clark, Sonna Hoke and Alice Grooms. They reported back that they had a good time and they enjoyed the classes they attended. Our unit meeting for March had Caitlin Huth giving the lesson on "New and Unusual Foods". This was interesting and we tasted a couple of things we had not tried, I discovered I like black bean chips. Our craft for the month was a necklace made from a washer, they are very pretty.

Upcoming events:

In May, we are going on a trip to an Alpaca Farm near Clinton.

We recognized our First Responders in Clinton last year and this year Judie Knoth, Community Outreach/Family Issues is making plans to recognize the remaining First Responders for DeWitt County.

In July, we will be having our annual picnic with Bingo and prizes! Everyone always enjoys this and we have a good turnout!

In September, we will be having a Fund Raiser at our local IGA selling Pulled Pork Sandwiches. We did this for the first time last year and it was very successful.

International Day is September 19th. Emmy and Debbie Bates are working hard on gathering information about Australia. We will be hosting International for our Tri-County at the Macon County Extension office.

Linda Riva
Newsletter/ CVU, DeWitt County



Never test the depth of the water
with both feet.

MACON.....



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—Macon County

Our Macon County HCE was extremely honored to be named the "County of the Year" at the state conference in Effingham. Our wonderful membership is very involved in our community and volunteer in many capacities. We are very glad to have a County Board that is so involved with planning programs, presenting programs, and supporting us in every way. We will continue to grow and present relevant and educational programs to our general membership.

Since our last newsletter article, we had our Fall Meeting which was a potluck style dinner featuring food items made with pumpkin. This was a big hit and I have been publishing some of those yummy pumpkin recipes in our county newsletter. We have also been to a local book /gift store, Novel Ideas; had a very interesting and educational lesson about current scams, and we created several useful items with our favorite material and sewing notions. We call these special sewing days "Sew Practical", and they are really popular programs for our membership. We are also continuing to have our "Pillowcase Sewing Days" too. We made and donated a total of 294 pillowcases this past year.

Upcoming events for MCHCE include a program presented by our local libraries, our catered Spring Meeting which will include a member-made craft sale to support our celebration for our hundredth year of existence, and a special program by Father Dom, the Bread Monk, on August 11th. We are truly looking forward to the many programs that will be presented this year in honor of our 100th year!

"A Century of Learning & Serving"
1918 - 2018
Celebrating our
100th Anniversary September 8, 2018



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

➔ Macon County, continued



County of the Year Award presentation
to Macon County by President Jane Chapman

Linda Austin,
Public Relations, Macon County

MC LEAN.....

McLean County Association for Home and Community Education members are ready to enjoy spring and all its signs of “growth”. Summer will bring the 100th year of McLean County HCE's "growth." The “Celebrate at the Crossroads with McLean County” Annual Meeting on July 10, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be in the Mini Expo Building at the McLean County Fairgrounds. Don Meyer, retired U of I Extension Director will speak and there will be a Hat Style Show and a plated lunch. Featured will be many displays of quilts, kitchenware, cultural enrichment projects, all HCE cookbooks, Margaret Esposito items, Unit and County scrapbooks, and Collection of McLean County Units histories: 1918-2018.

Come visit our “100 Years of Purple Passion for HCE” us as we join 6 other HCE Illinois counties in the 100 year excitement. HCE members have marched and ridden in 5 parades during 2017 to share the news of 100 Years! The 2018 schedule has 5 more parades on the calendar. “Purple” is the color worn! Each month units continue to hear fascinating "fact finds" about units' individual 100 years of history.

December's “Merry Chocolate Christmas Party” was enjoyed by 63 members and 7 guests who heard a great program on chocolate by Decorators Grocery owner, Kelly Mathy. Shopping for Christmas items, make-it take-it projects, holiday singing, bingo and a great buffet were also a big hit with attendees. Our Friendship/Membership Tea in February was a delight for 38 guests and 57 members. The “Tea Ladies”, Nancy Perzo and Karen Patton shared unique Victorian Valentine Traditions as attendee's sipped tea in personal cups.

Workshops and classes were ongoing each month—on Community Service day busy hands work on crafts or other special projects – including hats, scarves, and mittens for local children, lap quilts and eye glass cases for developing nations and special projects for the 100th Annual Meeting. Cultural art participants made baskets in January, Whatchamacalit Bags in February, and wreaths from shelf liner material in March. Members will attend a local Tri-Valley high school play, “Shakespeare Trilogy”, in April after dining at a local restaurant.

Books read in February and April, and then discussed by members were – *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware and *Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. In January all units experienced “Sensory Gardening”. Fish Facts: Making Your Dollars Stretch was the February program. The Bi-county event: Super Saturday, March 10 found local leaders learning three programs – 5 Ingredient Fix, Living with a Hearing Loss, and Fairy Gardens. April, May and June members will learn about these topics from the leaders of McLean and Livingston counties.

McLean County was represented by 13 members during the “Celebration at the Crossroads” IAHCE annual conference in Effingham March 13-15. Attendees participated in interesting programs, workshops, Silent Auction and Fine Arts and Craft/Cultural Enrichment Display. Numerous awards were received by McLean County.

May 15th is the eagerly anticipated spring trip. Members and guests will tour the Waterwheel Gristmill in Chicago plus the Naper Settlement and Martin Mitchell Mansion in Naperville.

Looking ahead- HCE summer bake sales at the Downs Village Market start soon. Sales bring eager consumers who line up to buy the wonderful delicacies talented members bake to sell. Our McLean County HCE members work tirelessly on money making projects because we believe in and want to support our communities and our local 4-H youth programs.

Thursday, August 2nd, 8:30-11:30 McLean Co HCE will sponsor Young at Heart Day at the 4-H Fair which runs August 1-5. This event is for 60+ who will enjoy senior vendor displays, entertainment, refreshments and lots of fun. Seniors get into the fair free that morning and have free parking.

McLean County HCE website is: www.mcleanhce.org. Check out events and pictures of events posted on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education>. Our Public Relations team is working on developing a new website thanks to Mary Kay Kurtenbach. We will direct you to the site as it's available.

Remember “100 Years of Purple Passion for HCE” July 10th! Tickets/info: Kathryn McNeely at 309-275-8898 or Kathryn.mcneely42@gmail.com.

See you in McLean County – come visit.

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

PHOTOS Mc Lean County

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Above: Berry Basket Workshop

Right: Lynda Kolb making baskets at workshop



Left: Big chocolate bar - Kelly Mathy, Chocolate presenter



Above: The women are holding their fans in certain ways that explains their intentions of what they may want a young man to think.



Above: Tea Ladies Nancy Perzo and Karen Patton



IAHCE Annual Conference—McLean County

Barb Jurgens
McLean County Public Relations Team

PIATT.....



Piatt County HCE started this year with a bang. Our Cultural Enrichment Day was held in the Piatt County Extension Office on January 24, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. We started off with a guest speaker, Kristi Pyatt of Fox Run Fibers. Kristi is a fiber artist who operates a micro-sheep farm just north of Monticello.



Kristi's delightful presentation was followed by the judging of multiple foods and craft entries (ex. soups, breads, cakes, pies, fruit salads, general crafts, photography, quilts, heritage needle work, knitting, hand embroidery, machine pieced and quilted, table runners, wall hangings).

Our judges were much appreciated volunteers who came from Macon County HCE. This celebration of our talents came to a close after sharing a meal made out of the competitive food entries. It was delicious!

Thirteen Piatt County HCE members attended the 94th Annual IAHCE Conference held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, March 13-15, 2018.



IAHCE Annual Conference—Piatt County



Evelyn Eads, one of our talented quilters, won "Best of Show in the Quilting Division" with this very beautiful example of her handiwork.



DISTRICT 5 and 6 NEWS

➔ Piatt County, continued

Two of our members, Alice Briggs and Miriam Seevers were presented with a single rose each for being a member of HCE for over 50 years. Twila Mackey was honored with a bouquet of roses since she has completed 77 active years in HCE and is now working on her 78th continuous year as a member.



Alice Briggs

Miriam Seevers

Jane Chapman and Twila Mackey



Bags for senior citizen walkers.

Back on the home front, our crafters are working on completing a 3-month old community service project.

They are sewing “carry-all” bags for use with senior citizen walkers.

HCE is alive and well in Piatt County!

Carol Drayton
Piatt County Co-Public Relations

VERMILION.....

Spring Greetings from Vermilion County!

2018 is in full swing! Program books are filled out, lessons being taught and good ideas being put into action by our members.

Thank You for all the hard work to the educators, program chairman, members being trained to give the lesson to the units and the members for being interested in the lessons. Lots of hard work goes into the preparation of our lessons, so lets all enjoy using some of, or all the information received from our educators. Suggestions on programs are always welcome.

Mary Stampini, International & Cultural Enrichment Chairman, and JoAnne Gerard, Treasurer & Membership

Chairman, represented Vermilion County at the Annual Conference 2018.

Vermilion County HCE won an educational award for having 64% member attendance at the International Program in 2017. The Vermilion County also received \$50 for the International Program.

The country of study was "The Philippines for 2017." Thank You, Mary for your dedication to Vermilion County International Programs!

Vermilion County Annual Meeting will be held June 12, 2018 at the Vermilion County Museum. For reservation information please call Eleanor White, 217-759-7237. Deadline June 4th.

J. Diane Reddy
Public Relations, Vermilion County



DISTRICT 6

DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR Debbie Segrest



A big hello to everyone!

I enjoyed meeting some of you at conference and I look forward to meeting the rest of you at your annual meetings. I always make new friends at each conference, a stranger is a friend that we haven't met yet.

A little about me, I was born and raised in and around Ft. Wayne, Indiana - Hoosier Hospitality, Hoosier Pride! Right after high school, I met my ex - husband and moved just barely over the state line to Ohio, where I gave birth to and raised our son, Jason, now 40 and living in Chicago. After a horrible marriage, I divorced and 2 years later, met the Love of my Life, Charlie. I adopted his son, Josh, 30, lives a few blocks from me, with my beautiful granddaughters, Lexi, almost 12, going on 17, Emmy, 9, and Silas, almost 1 year. A little over a year ago, God took my Charlie home.

Being a widow is the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, but with God's help and some wonderful friends and family, I am learning to live without my Charlie. I also have two fur babies, Copper, boykin spaniel and Bebe, my cat. I am a member of Unity Baptist Church.

While working as a Census Crew Leader Assistant, a member of my crew invited me to an HCE meeting. Now I have been Vandalia's HCE President for 8 years. I am currently Fayette County's First Vice President, have also served as county Family Issues, Cultural Enrichment, and

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

CVH. Other than HCE, I have kept very busy in my community currently as Meals On Wheels site supervisor, I serve as a board member at the senior center, coordinator of free summer lunches for kids, 2nd Vice President for Vandalia Historical Society, member of Fayette County Emergency Management Agency (specialize in storm spotting, shelters, and animal rescue), Secretary of Fayette County Hospital Auxiliary. I help with or have helped with several other organizations also.

While at conference, two counties in our district shared their problems with me. Rest assured, I have been working on those problems and will contact you soon. If anyone else has any questions or problems, please feel free to contact me, 618-267-0734, please leave a message (I don't usually answer numbers that I don't know), I will call you back as soon as I can. I look forward to being your new District 6 Director. Let's see how many new members we can have by 2019's conference!

Debbie

Debbie and Past District 6 Director, Marilyn Schaefer



BOND.....

It has been a long cold winter. Everyone is looking forward to the beautiful spring weather.

Bond County ended the year by presenting clothing and a monetary gift to the Pregnancy Support Center in Greenville from the various units thru out the county.

The Extension Council enjoyed a bountiful Christmas luncheon at the Greenville University Commons where we had as our guest our new secretary to our extension office, Karen Knots. Welcome Karen!

Our HCE members have been busy with their Volunteer Hours - sewing cancer caps, fidget blankets, baby bibs and burp clothes, tote bags for children in hospitals plus lap blankets, walker bags and luncheon bibs for nursing home residents. Several of our members entertain at the local nursing home with singing and piano playing. One member helps with Hospice - others help at the Senior Center- just some of our volunteer hours.

Several members set up a display at the HSHS Holy Family Hospital Health Fair in Greenville on March 16. They handed out literature about HCE and beany babies to the children.

Major lessons for winter were "33 Ways to Get a Deal on Anything", Modern Food Trends, Reinventing a Room with Paint and "Eggs".

"A Matter of Balance" class was attended by several HCE members to help us stay upright - on our feet -exercises to strengthen our bodies-keep moving and remove the fear of falling.

Three HCE Bond County Extension Board members attended the annual IAHCE Conference in Effingham, IL March 13-15. They were Janice Tompkins, Pat Sutton and Shirley Volentine.

This morning, March 19, Janice Tompkins and Pat Sutton presented the EMT's from HSHS Holy Family Hospital a "First Responders" sign purchased at the Conference - honoring the volunteers and MT's. Recognition by the radio station - WGEL - was given to Bond County HCE Association.

Shirley Volentine
Bond County Public Relations

CLINTON.....



Clinton County HCE board attended state conference.
*Front: Carol Petermeyer, Diane Sinclair and Janet Schmeink
Back : Cindy Niemeyer, Kay Peters and Karen Voss*

Clinton County has been busy. Six of our board members attended state conference. Three of them were first time attendees. A great time was had by all of us. We were very impressed with the attendance, the speakers, and the level of everything was way beyond our expectations from decorating, table favors, to the enthusiasm, to the share shops and the vendors. Can't wait till next year to do it again!

We are busy planning our 73rd annual meeting with us also going with the patriotic theme.

International night is coming up featuring the Philippines with a local resident being from the Philippines doing the program.

A spring bus trip to the Hill in St. Louis is also on the agenda! And in May we are having a speaker on Elder Law. So, lots of things are planned to keep us active and we didn't even mention our 2nd annual Uncork the Holidays for October that is in the planning stages, too.

Karen Voss
Public Relations, Clinton County

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

CRAWFORD.....

Oblong's Morning Glories News

Every October, the Morning Glories HCE unit sponsors a community dinner. With the profits they give back to the community. This year, they were able to donate \$50 to the Christmas for Kids; \$200 to the Oblong Food Pantry; \$400 to someone for medical bills after major surgery; \$40 to ERBA to help with a few senior meals in Oblong; sponsored a trophy (\$25) for the 4-H county fair; and purchased 12 boxes of crayons for the Oblong Grade School.

They did some baking for the Ridgeview Care Center to help with a couple of activities...in May, baked cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. for a Bake Walk...in November, baked goodies for the November birthday party. Also, co-sponsored a workshop to make valentines for the nursing homes and the Veterans home.

They feel very fortunate to be able to give back and hope for a good year in 2018 to continue giving back!



Gary Lantern, Oblong Fire Department accepts the \$200 check from Dale Davis for Christmas for Kids.



Crawford County HCE donates items to Hutsonville's Heritage Home for Veterans

Pictured from left: Kaye Waggoner, Dorothy Osborn, Jeannie Adams, Coreta Sparks, Rhea Hayden and Hope Dennis

Hope Dennis
Public Relations, Crawford County

EFFINGHAM.....

HAPPY SPRING!

Effingham County HCE ladies have a Sew Day once a month at the County Extension Center during the fall and winter months where they get together and make walker and wheel chair caddies for six area nursing homes, and Fidget Mats for Nursing Homes and Alzheimer and Dementia Units in their community. They also make Christmas Stockings for the FISH organization and the Veterans; and Breast Pillows for St. Anthony HSHS Wellness Center; they sort cards that members have collected through the year, from which they make book-marks for the local libraries. These are great Community Service projects that the members are involved in.

The Sew Days give members an opportunity to share ideas while sewing these projects. They have access to ten sewing machines at the Center so members do not have to bring their own machine. Some of the ladies bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy. At the end of the day, we always count how many items we finished that day and we know that we are a little closer to our goal that we need to 'give away'! It's always a great day of fellowship.

On Friday, May 11th from 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 12th 9:00-2:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham, there will be a quilt show. If anyone would like to show their quilts they are to bring them in on Thursday evening. It's in conjunction with the Farm Bureau who is celebrating their 100th birthday.

On Saturday June 9th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham Father Dominic will have an Herb Bread class starting at 10:00 a.m. If anyone would like tickets, you can contact Marilyn Schaefer at 217-821-0508 or Sharon Davis at 217-536-6032. The cost is \$10.00 and at the door is \$13.00

Sharon Davis
Effingham County Public Relations



Sharon Davis, 2018 IAHCE Conference Chair, was presented with a basket of flowers in appreciation for the work done to make the 2018 conference a truly great Celebration!

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

FAYETTE.....

The last three months have been busy with projects and various community projects, in which one or more of our members were involved.

We were saddened to lose two of our beloved members.

***Lucille Fisher...** who succumbed to age-related illness just short of her 105th birthday.

She had shared that she was present for the very first planning meeting in Vandalia to get the organization started for women and she was the only person who came.

When the club was organized, she served as an officer in the club as well as in her community for many years. Lucille was literally a life-long member, as she insisted on paying her dues, even though she was no longer able to attend the meetings.

***Shirley Klitzing**, who had also been a long-time member and officer, and was, in fact, serving as the Board Treasurer at the time of her death in a traffic accident.

Shirley was known county-wide (and farther) for her beautiful quilts, especially her baby quilts which many now treasure as a part of their heritage.

And now, as spring brings new life to the earth, so do new members also bring new talents and skills to our Fayette HCE. We have three babies now which attend often and which are enjoyed as they are ideal members. They are all well-behaved, and have smiles for everyone.

One is Ashley Davis' granddaughter and is always impeccably dressed in the latest fashions, very cute, but comfortable and appropriate attire...a potential Fayette HCE member.

Moving on, the Sefton Unit had a "Valentine's Day" Luncheon for their February meeting and invited near-by St. Elmo Unit as Valentine Guests.

Our Highlights of the month of March came close together and both were very enjoyable and educational.

Our lovely visitor from Australia...

...**Sarah Kenny**, of the town of Perth, Australia, gave a very interesting and informational talk, accented and accompanied by slides of her home, the local school bus, the students and the school.

She also showed slides of their large sheep ranch, showing them being herded, and being sheared of their wool, which they sell.

There were many scenic slides, showing the large pastures and areas, which prevent very close neighbors as the grazing fields are very large.

She shared that the schools go only to the 6th grade and the children then usually go on to boarding schools.

The grocery stores and other markets are small and the nearest city to their ranch is about 150 miles. The road to the larger market facilities is a two lane hard road, but most roads are not paved.

She displayed a book containing photographs of beautiful flowering plants and flower gardens.

She spoke very clearly and answered all questions after her talk. Her speech, manners of speaking and lovely voice were charming.

She is a member and representative of the Country Women Association, similar to the IAHCE and with our backgrounds, foods, and traditions, etc., we are much the same. Sarah Kenny from Perth, Australia, visit to Fayette County seemed all too brief, and we would welcome her.

The IAHCE Annual 94th Conference ...

... **dinner was great!!** ! We, of the Fayette County HCE, were especially excited because our own Fayette Zimmerman family were chosen "Great American Family" and so glad because they are the real thing--and they are so humble about the honor.



The Great American Family with Panzi Blackwell (in red).

The men's quartet "The Eagles" patriotic medley of songs was also very nice and touching.

There seemed to be an air of friendliness in the large dining room and I enjoyed seeing our officers who do so much and had worked so hard to make the event so nice.

(We do appreciate you, and the little cloth bags with the bath items were a nice surprise-Thank You.)

This was the 94th Annual conference. Wonder what the first few were like years ago?

Panzi Blackwell
Public Relations, Fayette County



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—Fayette County

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

JASPER.....

Officer Jim Riddle presented information on “Scams...How Not To Be A Victim” and “What To Do If You Are!!” to an attentive crowd at the Sunrise Community Center on March 5. Officer Riddle informed the crowd of the most common scams in our area, how to protect yourself, and provided everyone with a multitude of information to take home and read. Thanks to all that attended! This event was sponsored by Jasper County HCE.

On March 8, Grace Hartrich read her book entitled, MY PET ROCKS, to each kindergarten class in Jasper County, and then Marge Thompson and Donna Richards (HCE Board Members) and Janet Hartrich gave each student a copy of their own book to take home.

Grace wrote her book as a project while in the CEO class at NCHS last year. She is now attending SIU-Edwardsville studying Elementary Education. She is the daughter of Tony and Janet Hartrich of Ste. Marie, Illinois. BOOKS FOR BEGINNERS is an annual project of the Jasper County HCE (Home and Community Education) promoting literacy and a love of reading to all the kindergarten students during HCE Week (March 11-17).

Anyone that would like to become a member of HCE and participate in the Books For Beginners annual project, contact Judy Millsap ([618-455-3584](tel:618-455-3584)) or Sarah at the U of I Extension Office, Sunrise Community Center ([618-783-2521](tel:618-783-2521)).



Books for Beginners in Jasper County

Jasper County HCE organizes both *Books for Beginners* for all Jasper County Kindergarteners and *Toys for Kids* at Christmas time.

A \$500 Scholarship for a graduating senior whose parent/grandparent is a member is awarded each year

Six members of the Jasper County HCE Board went on a Mystery Trip on Saturday, April 14, 2018. The first stop was breakfast at Old Mac's in Dieterich, IL. Next, the group headed to Aikman WildLife Adventure, near Arcola, IL, to enjoy the one mile, drive-thru experience where they saw the following animals up close: emu, bison, zebras, turkeys, a wildebeest, camels, gazelles, elk, peacocks, draft horses, an Oryx, eland, and variety of sheep and llamas. Then, the

ladies shopped for an hour at Arcola before heading to the home of Willis and Elizabeth Schrock for lunch. Eating in the home of an Amish family was quite a treat! The group enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken/meatloaf and all the fixins' with apple and coconut pie for dessert. After visiting with the Schrock family, the ladies went to Reuben and Ruth Yoder's farm where they were given a tour of their farm, which included Belgian horses, colts, miniature ponies, Standard buggy horses, St. Bernard dogs, and Chocolate Lab dog/puppies. Before heading home, the group shopped at Morning Song Collections near Arcola.



HCE Mystery Trip

Those enjoying the mystery trip were Donna Richards, Judy Millsap, Kathy Yager, Connie Elliott, Marge Thompson and Amy Tarr.

The Jasper County HCE Board attended the 94th Annual IAHCCE Conference at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, IL on March 13-15, 2018.



2018 IAHCCE Annual Conference—Jasper County

*Front Row, L-R: Judy Millsap and Connie Elliott
Back Row: Kathy Yager, Donna Richards, Marge Thompson, and Pat Hildebrand.*

Both Donna and Pat are also State IAHCCE Officers.

For more information on Jasper County HCE or to become a member, contact any of the Board members or call Sarah at the U of I Extension Office, Sunrise Center, 618-783-2521.

Judy Millsap
JCAHCCE Board President

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

JERSEY.....

Jersey County HCE lost our President Karen Ziegler in January. She had been a member for over 55 years and will be greatly missed.

We started off the year with 2 package lessons - "Creating a No Waste Kitchen" and "Money Talks - Crucial Conversations." Lisa Peterson, U of I Nutrition & Wellness Educator gave a lesson on Food & Drug Interaction. In April, Andrew Holsinger taught us how to plant a garden for Hummingbirds.

Our Annual meeting is May 17 and our speaker will be Mary Johnson, our Exchange Homemaker to the Baltic States.

Lately our Elsay Unit has been having lunch and learn meetings. Tips to Haskill House and a tour of the Alton Lock and Dam followed by lunch. Our craft class has made yarn roses and learned Iris Paper Folding. May will be our last class till September and we are learning to make soda can yard flowers. Our Quilt block of the month is finishing up their Mystery Quilt for Show and Tell at our Annual meeting. It's been an interesting year and we have more to come.

Sandy Bechtold
Public Relations, Jersey County HCE

MADISON.....

Madison County is back from conference with lots of ideas to share to our units! For those of you that didn't go, you sure missed a wonderful time with lots of great share shops, make and take its, and fun! The theme Meet at the Crossroads was very evident in the patriotic decorations and table giveaways during the conference!

We wrapped up last year with our Christmas in November with a catered meal, entertainment by guitarist Jeremy Wright, and our basket raffles. Our quilt was given away also. The winner was Susan Koemcheck from our Marine Unit. Thank you everyone who bought tickets!

This February, we had our annual Winter Warm Up. We had around 60 guests and teachers who participated. Classes included topiaries, painting, watercolor greeting cards, essential oil, sewing kits, and chicken scratch embroidery to name a few.

This spring we have many wonderful events planned, we start with our Make it and Take it slated for April 21st at the Farm Bureau building in Edwardsville. Each unit will supply a craft for every child that attends to do. Children ages 3-8 are encouraged to attend. The event runs from noon-three and light snacks will be provided.

Our annual meeting will be held on April 23 at LeClaire Christian Church with registration at 9:30 am. Cost will be \$14.00 per person which includes a catered meal by Sundae's Best.

The May Tour will be to Carlinville. Cost is \$35 per person. On Thursday, May 17th we will be heading to Carlinville for our county trip. The bus will leave at 8:00 am from the Madison County Farm Bureau. We will tour the court house, Can on all Jailhouse, and historic Sear's home. Lunch will be on our own around the town square and we will have time to shop the antique and gift stores. We may also tour the Anderson Mansion and maybe Blackburn College. Cost is \$35 per person plus cost of lunch. We should arrive back to Edwardsville by 4:30/5:00 pm. More details will be posted to our Facebook page as they are confirmed.

Finally, in June we will have a presentation on the Baltic States presented by Eleanor Gregory. This will take place on June 19th at 1:00 pm. at the Farm Bureau building in Edwardsville with light snacks provided.

For more information about any of the events please feel free to email me at emhohl@gmail.com

Thank you!

Emily McDowell
Public Relations, Madison County.


MARION.....

The November meeting of the Marion County HCE Board was the last of 2017. Members finalized plans for distribution of the birthday bags that were assembled in October and will be handed out beginning in January of the new year at the Food Pantry located in Marion County at the Salem Community Center. Children between 1 and 10 years of age will receive a bag that includes items to celebrate their birthdays. Marion County HCE members have donated or solicited donations of items such as cake mix and icing, drink mix, birthday related paper products and decorations, books, and toys.

In the Treasurer's report, it was noted that Gwendolyn Emrich was the recipient of the Marion County HCE award of \$25 that was presented at the 4-H Achievement Night held earlier in November at the Marion County Fairgrounds.

Pat Young, Treasurer, also reported that a donation of \$25 was made to the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund in memory of member Doris Riley.

A University of Illinois Extension Lync Call allowed members and the public to view a Power Point presentation and hear a lesson about Financial Elder Exploitation at the Marion County Extension Office on November 2.

Chris Lueking, University of Illinois Extension Ag and Natural Resources Coordinator, presented a lesson about Floral Arranging at the Marion County Extension Office on January 25. Those in attendance learned about a variety of ways to display arrangements which include options other than the traditional vase. Use of 

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

➔ Marion County, continued

wreathes, driftwood, and bark was shown with tips on how to keep arrangements fresh also given. Attendees had the opportunity to choose flowers for a make and take bouquet to brighten their home during the cold, dark January days.

At the January meeting of the Marion County HCE, Treasurer Pat Young, reported that a donation of \$25 was made to the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund in memory of member Berniece Swan. She also reported that a \$500 Marion County HCE Scholarship distribution was made to Jeremy Hollinshead who is continuing his education at Frontier Nursing University.

In new business, a Nominating Committee was appointed to contact members to fill various Marion County HCE Board positions that will be elected at the Marion County HCE Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, April 25, at 1:30 pm at the Marion County Extension Office located at 144 East Main Street in Salem.

Chris Lueking also presented the February lesson about container gardening which was very well attended. Plans were finalized at the February Marion County HCE Board meeting for those who will be attending the IAHCE meeting to be held March 13 through 15 in Effingham. We look forward to hearing their reports regarding various officer meetings they will attend. They will also bring back information to share from a variety of workshop trainings they attend.

The March meeting of the Marion County HCE Board began on a somber note with the announcement of the death of our only remaining Charter Member, Ruby Schaffer. Ruby is remembered fondly as a past President and active member of HCE who was a wealth of knowledge.

Attendees of the IAHCE Annual Conference reported they enjoyed the workshops they attended and gave a summary of what they learned and offered handouts to be copied.

Plans were finalized for the Marion County HCE Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, April 25, at 1:30 pm at the Marion County Extension Office. Each Unit will provide two dozen cookies and two door prizes. John Shaw, area humorist and poet, will be the speaker. Homemaker of the Year nominations are due April 13. The winner will be announced at that meeting. A committee was appointed to audit the Treasurer's books at which time the proposed budget will be prepared. The Nominating Committee reported regarding new officers being nominated.

Plans continued for the upcoming Book Sale Fundraiser to benefit the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund to be held Friday, April 6, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday, April 7, from 9:00 am to 2 pm at the Marion County Extension Office. Donations of books will be accepted beginning April 1.

A fundraiser to benefit the General Fund was discussed featuring George Portz and the Friends of Bluegrass.

The Salem Community Theatre and Cultural Center is available for his proposed date of Saturday, June 30, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The Junior Fiddlers Frolic and Callers will be joining him this year. Tickets will be available soon at the Marion County Extension Office (618-548-1446) and at the door. The Salem Theatre and Cultural Center will provide concessions of which proceeds will benefit their organization.

Board members vied for a door prize from the Annual Meeting and enjoyed sharing handmade chocolate purchased during the Annual Meeting by Co-Chairman Dorothy Bruce after the meeting was adjourned.

Carrol Murray (left) and Helen Leonhardt distributed Birthday Bags to children served by the Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry located in Marion County in January.



This is an ongoing project by members which provides items that can be used to celebrate a birthday and will be presented to children age 1-10 during the month in advance of their birthday.

Connie Williams
Public Relations, Marion County

MONROE.....

Monroe County's 76th annual meeting was held in November. New officers were installed by District 6 Director, Marilyn Schaefer. Also in attendance at the meeting were State President-Jane Chapman, District 7 Director-Janel Kassing, CVH/Sales-Ashley Davis and District 6 Director candidate-Debbie Segrest.

Gracia Schlafly was honored as the 2017 Distinguished HCE Member at the annual meeting. She is active in her Columbia Mid-Day HCE Unit and loves to knit and do crafts. She has held various offices including County President.

President Rose Anne Bense presented award to Gracia Schlafly.



DISTRICT 6 and 7NEWS

Nine members attended the annual conference in Effingham. We had several Cultural Enrichment entries that won at state. Betty Gross won both the “People’s Choice” and “Best of Show” for a gorgeous quilt she made. She also won “Best of Show” for her doily. Sharon Scherer was a “Best of Show” winner for the charming doll clothes that she sewed. Congratulations to both of these winners!

On a regular basis, Monroe County HCE Board and Units coordinate the monthly birthday parties at the county nursing home. Entertainment is secured, cakes are made, and gifts are provided to the birthday honorees. The New Design Unit assisted at the Oak Hill Nursing Home Birthday Party in January.



2018 Monroe County HCE Board

Front row: Carol Hoffmann, Carol Postlewait, Toni Blandford, Celeste Krausz, Doris Matzenbacher
Back row: Donna Meidinger, Dorothy Kohler, Rose Anne Bense, Rosemary Yaekel, Marie Schroeder



Members Carol Postlewait, Marie Schroeder, Judy Eschmann and Virginia Mueller.

Rose Anne Bense
President/Public Relations, Monroe County

RICHLAND.....



2018 IAHCE Conference—Richland County

Front row L-R: Nell Cokley, Debbie Geier, Eleanor Steber
Back row L-R: Lisa Weiler, Janet Jones, Cathy Harris and Lacey DeMaire

New Member Award

President Jane Chapman presented the New Member Award to Cathy Harris, Richland County, right.



Cathy won the free registration from the drawing Angela Hicks (IAHCE 2nd Vice) had from all new members names sent to her.



DISTRICT 7 NEWS

DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR Janel Kassing

Another great conference is history - Hope you enjoyed it as much as I did-a busy time. What a beautiful hotel! They did an amazing job of decorating. PLEASE share the information you received if you came to conference.

Wasn't it great meeting Sara Kenny in Benton and at conference? What a great lady! Australia is indeed an awesome place. This will be an interesting place to study. I hope to go back there in 2019.



Adams	Champaign	Hancock
Kane	Kankakee	LaSalle
Macon	Livingston	Mercer
McHenry	McLean	Saline
Tazewell	Williamson	

DISTRICT 7 NEWS

➔ District 7 Director, continued

Thanks to all the counties who invited me to their Annual Meetings and birthday celebrations. How great to see so many of you!

I hope you all will be able to use the muffin lesson I brought to conference for you. I have plans made for my June and August lessons. Speaking of June- see you on June 19 at 9:30 in Benton. Info will be shared then about the August workshop in Effingham on August 9.

This may be the last time we will order the state t-shirts. If you don't have one, you might consider ordering one before it is too late. What a great way to show your enthusiasm for our organization and promote our name to all you see.

They are available in sizes S-XL for \$15 and in sizes 2XL-3XL for \$17.50. The logo is printable in the front or back.

Send order info to me at :
328 S Main St. Red Bud, IL 62278

Janel



ORDER YOUR IAHCE T-SHIRT

By JULY 2, 2018

S, M, L, XL \$35.00
XXL, XXXL 37.50
100% cotton

**SEE ORDER FORM ON
PAGE 51**

Order now! This may be your last chance.

We had a great lesson in February on managing digital photos. Managing photos today is far different from when we older folks used a Brownie camera and cardboard photo albums.

We are still collecting cancelled stamps, soda can tabs, plastic lids and certain other plastics, as well as Boxtops for Education, "Your Cause" milk bottle lids, etc. Karol Brown is in charge of these collections. She also took valentines and lots of personal items to the Veterans Administration hospital in Marion. We gave them \$95.00 worth of quarters for them to use in vending machines.

We had a great lesson on "Spring Door Décor" with several ladies, both members and non- members attending. Everyone had a chance to make a wreath. There was a variety of different kinds and colors of wreaths when they were all completed.

Five Hamilton County board members attended the IAHCE annual conference meeting in Effingham: Becky Belcher, Rhonda Millenbine, Lucille Auten, Phyllis Parr, and Karol Brown. They all enjoyed the many activities and meeting up with friends from other counties.

It looks like this will be a busy spring as we already have several things on the calendar, including Annual Day on April 26.

Our Memorial Scholarship will be awarded at the high school on May 8th. It is great that we can help young people with their higher education, at the same time honoring our members who have gone on before.

We look forward for the flowers and trees to all be in bloom. We hope this is a good year for everyone.

Bernadine Drone
Public Relations, Hamilton County
Karol Brown and Becky Belcher

HAMILTON.....

The weather in Hamilton County has been unusual this year. One week would be very warm and the next might be extremely cold. Right now we're hoping that spring is right around the corner, as we're ready for it!

We've had several activities starting with a November lesson on seasonal table dressings and desserts, just in time for the holidays. Our town has a Christmas parade, and our members serve hot chocolate and cookies after the parade. A vendor fair was held on December 2 where we offered lunch items for sale.

Our annual "Cabin Fever Day" which was planned for January had to be rescheduled for March, due to weather conditions. Several 4-H members attended, and, assisted by HEA members, several projects were completed. At the end of the session, we were served the famous Auten pizzas and cookies. This was a real spring fever day!

JACKSON.....

The ladies of Jackson County have had a busy winter. We began with icy weather, that caused our lessons to be canceled and rescheduled a few times. We have had a wonderful lesson on Genealogy.

With the weather being so unpredictable, we were glad to have a pick-up lesson to present to the clubs. It was a season of snow, cold and ice. We made it through and attended classes as they were rescheduled. We had a Container Gardening class in March.

Our upcoming lessons will be I'm Positive I'm Aging and a pickup lesson on Dealing with Clutter.

Several Jackson County HCE Board members and unit members attended the Annual Conference in Effingham.

DISTRICT 7 NEWS

We are sure they will be bringing back new ideas for our members.

Our Annual meeting will be on April 18th and we will Celebrate Illinois' 200th Birthday with a wonderful program. We will be installing new Jackson County HCE Board members at this annual meeting along with the Celebration at the Crossroads of Illinois.

We look forward to the many interesting classes this Summer. We will be joining with the 4-H Youth in their Barn Quilt endeavor along with all of their usual classes. We hope to be called upon to assist in the judging of their projects this summer. So, come out and join us in the upcoming Spring and Summer of activities. It will be a season of fun activities.



2018 IAHCCE Annual Conference—Jackson County

Back Row L-R Catherine Ziegler, Brenda Jones, Kendra Evans and Jean Conrod

Front Row L-R; Mary Reiman, Barbara Giffen, Brenda Davis and Jane McLaughlin.

Jean Conrod

Newsletter Editor, Jackson County HCE

JEFFERSON.....

Spring has sprung a leak, the theme song for Jefferson County is "Rain, rain, go away". We hope all of you had a good start to the New Year.

January our units celebrated the start of the Year filling in our program books, and preparing for the New Year. Our January lesson was postponed by mother nature, until February. In celebration of the bicentennial of Illinois, Kari Williams presented us with a wonderful presentation on the history of Illinois. Everyone came away with some new knowledge of our state. We were all busy getting our educational reports and year end book information turned in. Also making plans for projects this coming year.

February our yearly Game and Soup night/membership drive had to be cancelled due to unexpected building repairs. The board finalized their plans to attend the conference in March. Our Lesson was on "Food and

Drug interactions." Did you know that licorice may reduce the effects of blood pressure medicine or diuretics? There were a multitude of drug and food interactions that many of us were unaware of. This lesson was very interesting and important.

March is a busy month, the board and a unit member went to conference, and we had our spring advisory meeting and a lesson on different things to do with a flour tortilla. It is a very versatile food product; you can also get whole grain tortillas if you are trying to avoid white flour. The board presented us with information they came home with from the conference at our advisory meeting, immediately following that was the Tortilla lesson and members had made various recipe samples using a tortilla.

We collected reservation forms for our hanging baskets fund raiser. In keeping with our celebration theme the flowers will be red, white and blue petunias. This will be ready in time to celebrate Mother's Day.

We have finalized our plans for our annual meeting, "Celebrating at the Crossroads."

We will continue to be busy celebrating, picking a scholarship winner, renewing our commitment as board members and the continuous educating of our organization and community members with some interesting and important lessons.

I found a good quote to emphasize our celebrate theme, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" –Robin Williams

JCHCE wishes all of you good health and good times to celebrate.

Barb Shurtz / Silvana Morss
Public Relations, JCHCE

MASSAC.....

The Massac County HCE Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 24, 2018. The theme was "Celebration at the Crossroads." The program incorporated the Patriotic theme with Jacob Nation and his service dog, Mindi, presenting the program. We are blessed to have service people who are willing to give so much to keep this country free. A special video presentation from the IAHCCE Conference was included in the meeting.

Volunteer Certificates for members who worked more than 300 hours in 2017 were presented during the meeting. The members recognized were: Rozann Wilkins, Judy Duckworth, Norma Carlton, Ann Schneider, Joyce Taylor, Dorothy Holt, Diane Kruger, Norma Korte, Judy Parr and Anita McConnell.

Thank you to the New Frontiers Unit who planned the annual meeting this year.



DISTRICT 7 NEWS

➔ Massac County, continued



The award for the best decorated table during the Massac County Annual Meeting was awarded to Town & Country Unit.



Massac County Volunteers in attending the 2018 IAHCCE Annual Conference were recognized for 300+ hours of volunteer service.

HCE Craft Workshop

Massac County HCE is sponsoring a Craft activity to make “Tree of Life” pendants and personal coasters. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend, young or old, and work together. The workshop will take place on April 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Massac County Extension Office. If there is enough interest, a second workshop will be scheduled for a later time. Amanda Quint from the Metropolis Library will be doing the photo coasters and Norma Korte will be helping with the pendant. Please call into the Extension office by April 12 so we can be sure to have enough materials.

HCE Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2018 Scholarship Winners! The students who will receive HCE scholarships are: Hattie Thomasson, daughter of Tim and Melissa Thomasson; Kaleb Cox, son of Karen and Reggie Cox; first runner up is Nathaniel Wetzel, son of Linda & Dwayne Wetzel; second runner-up Jakob Korte, son of Darryl & Sheila Korte.



Community Activities

The Market Street Spring Fling will be held on May 5, at 8:00 a.m. Massac County HCE will have a booth with snack foods, breads, and spring plants this year.

The Massac County HCE members will help with the Massac County Youth Fair fundraiser again this year. The fundraiser is scheduled for April 8th.

Massac County HCE Earn Awards at IAHCCE Conference

The Massac County HCE was recognized with several awards during the IAHCCE Conference. Massac County HCE was honored to receive the 2017 County of the Year for membership less than 75. Additionally, four Education Awards were also earned for all the activities the members do throughout the year.



County of the Year
Dorothy Holt (left), 2017 Massac County HCE President, accepting the County of the Year Award from Jane Chapman, IAHCCE President.

Norma Korte
Public Relations, Massac County

PERRY.....

Happenings from Perry County!

Since the last article much has been happening in little Perry County. November brought to the county the popular Holiday Idea Day (HID) event and in keeping with the county theme for the year “Down by the Riverside, Then & Now, celebrating 70 Years”, HID’s theme was “Home for the Holidays, Then & Now.” The program consisted of “Holiday Stress Relief”, “Consumer Science, Then & Now”, a take home craft, and napkin folding. The menu for the day consisted of sloppy joe’s made using a recipe from 1947 and cookies that were made at earlier HID’s by the mothers of several of the current board members.



January brought to Perry County the beginning of our “spin” unit which focuses on making crafts.

Left: Bonnie Paszkiewicz presented lesson on mason jar crafts

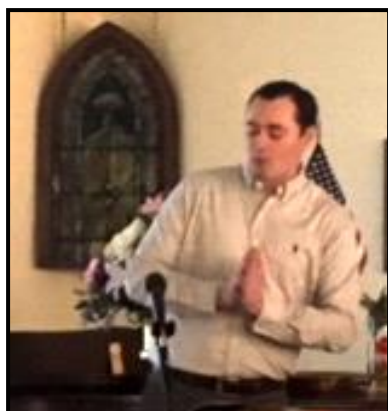
DISTRICT 7 NEWS

They meet every other month and do a different craft each month. January the lesson was on the use of mason jars and all the different ways they can be used in making crafts.

Right: March, members learned basket weaving and each participant made a berry basket.



February was focused on the weather as the main lesson for the month. This lesson was presented as a county wide, open to the public lesson, with speaker Nick Hausen, meteorologist from a local TV station. Mr. Hausen spoke about “The Forgotten Storm, the Great Tornado of 1925” and how if the same weather threat happened today how results would be less severe. The program was well attended with a group of round fifty people made up of HCE members and guests from the community.



Nick Hausen, Meteorologist

At the end of February, in preparation for the March 2018 IAHCE annual conference, Unit 26 consisting of Williamson, Franklin, Jackson, Perry, and Randolph counties got together and prepared the table favors for conference. All present learned how to make lavender milk bath and a lemon foot scrub so not only were we doing table favors for conference we were being educated at the same time.

Well, that concludes the happenings from Perry County so until the next time this old thought, *Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds!* Happy gardening!

Sara Tanner
Public Relations, Perry County

PULASKI-ALEXANDER.....

In January, we had installation of new officers on the Board. District 7 Director, Janel Kassing, Sate President Jane Chapman, and Jody Johnson attended our “Celebration at the Crossroads” birthday party.



*L-R, back row: Jane Chapman, Flora Helman, June Badgley, Margaret Ann Grace, Martha McMunn, Marilyn Kerr, Agnes Thurston, Janel Kassing
L-R, front row: Betty Shumaker, Joan Fish, Mary Jo King, Emma Dell Bennett.*

Our units, Pulaski and Shawnee, had lessons on “How to Avoid Antibiotics”, “Aging”, “How to Put Action into Words”, and “Filling Out Program Books.”

Two members of the Pulaski Units, Martha McMunn and Flora Helman, attended the State IAHCE 94th Annual Conference in Effingham, IL March 13-15. The scrapbook assembled by Betty Shuaker of the Shawnee unit won second place, of which we were very proud.



IAHCE Annual Conference

Martha McMunn, and Flora Helman attended various workshops, made new friends and visited vendors.

Sara Kenny, who lives in western Australia, was chosen by the Country Woman’s Association of Western Australia to visit Illinois. Sara gave an interesting presentation with her video of her country, her family, and their sheep farm of 7,000 head of sheep.

Pulaski/Alexander units have given to the Veteran’s Home in Anna, IL and Women’s Shelter in Cairo. Come join in the fun we plan to have on April 14th at the annual ‘Hillbilly Dinner’ at Caledonia Church, on Highway 37, Olmsted, IL.



DISTRICT 7 NEWS

➔ Pulaski-Alexander, County, continued



Pictured on March 22, 2018 are Martha McMunn, Sara Kenny, Flora Helman and Emma Dell Bennett, at a reception for Sara Kenny. The reception was held at the Extension Office in Benton.

We are looking forward to a productive spring and summer. Won't you join us as a new member? We are a group who share in life, learning, education and fellowship, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. You will be welcomed!

Martha McMunn
Public Relations, Pulaski/Alexander



MEET AND GREET—A reception was held in Benton on March 22 to meet and greet the Australian Sara Kenny. Those attending from Randolph County included from left Janel Kassing, Joan Wiegand, R, Shirley McCormick, Shirley Hohgreffe, Gertrude Helmers and Jeanne Stamm.

—Jane Lucht, Randolph County

RANDOLPH.....

It has been rather slow for HCE events. The weather during the winter months is always unpredictable and hard to schedule something.

Illinois is celebrating its bicentennial during 2018, so the HCE held an event to help commemorate the celebration. On President's Day, February 19, HCE invited the units and the public to a "Tea With Lady Washington."

Sharon Scherer of Columbia portrayed Mrs. Washington.



Also making a presentation on "How High Do You Bounce" Was Susan Sloop, Family Life Educator, from the University of Illinois.

An ingathering of items, such as toiletries, snacks, games, etc. was held for Ben's Boxes to be filled and sent to soldiers.

In March, 10 members of the board attended the conference. County President Janel Kassing is also director for the district and was involved in the planning, Share Shops, etc. One of our board members received a first place ribbon and also in the top five for her hand appliqued, hand quilted quilt.

The annual meeting was April 19 and a native of the Philippines now living in Red Bud was the guest speaker.

Jane Lucht
Public Relations, Randolph County

WHITE.....

As I sit here thinking about spring there is snow on my Easter flowers and tulips. But, I know spring will be here soon and White County Home Community Education members will be busy providing our White County community families with help, comfort and hope, when they need it most. Our members will make a difference in the lives of others in the coming year, by turning our compassion into action once again, so we can bring hope to our community with helpful, educational lessons every month.

I would like to take a moment to thank our IAHCE Board for a great convention, meaningful lessons we can take back to our members. It took lots of hours away from family, much traveling, many hours and phone calls. Then getting it all together, in order for our organization's future growth. So thanks for all you do for us. What you do matters.

White county has lots of planned activities in the coming months. We had a ham and bean dinner for our Heritage Day and Ruth Norris gave a lesson on making your own mixes. Fun was had by all.



Ruth Norris gave A lesson: "How to Make Your Own Mixes"

We took homemade cookies to our fire department, and furnished desserts for the 4-H Pork Chop Fund Raiser. Terri Ackerman gave a lesson on "Cooking With Herbs" at our new member luncheon.

DISTRICT 7 NEWS

In the coming month we will be having Annual Day and Our Spring Style Show and Salad Luncheon.



Taking Homemade treats to our first responders:
Doris Stinson, Fran Matheny, Joy Hoffman, Ruth Norris, Mary Bingman, Connie Bingman



Left: HCE member Joy Hoffman with Carmi Fire Department .

Right: Fran Matheny and Ludene Taylor Kids Day School Roundup.



2018 IAHCE Annual Conference—White County

Hope everyone has a wonderful year with lots of good ideas to bring to next year’s conference.

Thanks to all.

Fran Matheny
Public Relations, White County



WASHINGTON.....

The spring flowers are blooming and the birds are singing. Hello, Spring! Good-bye Winter!

The Washington County ladies are busy with meetings, quilting and conference meeting . Our president, Nancy Russell, and secretary, Jane Nelms, attended the IAHCE Conference. They enjoyed Celebrating at the Crossroads Conference and visting with the lady from Australia, Sara Kenny of Perth Australis. She is with the Country Women’s Association of Western Australia. We will be studying Australia. A couple that have lived there and go back to visit relatives, will speak of their life there at our International program in October.

A group of ladies went to a paint class, “Just Hang it up” at Irvington which they enjoyed and will display them at our Annual Meeting, April 23, 2018 at the New Minden School House basement. There will be a silent auction, catered meal and installation of officers with speaker, Anne May, who will give an enjoyable presentation to start the next year.

Since this is the 200th birthday of Illinois here are some quick facts:

- Nickname: Prairie State;
- State Flower: Purple violet;
- State bird: Cardinal;
- State tree: White Oak; and
- well known President of US—Lincoln’s home in Springfield.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy spring and great summer!!

Adeline Blumhorst
Public Information, Washington County

WILLIAMSON.....

HCE of Williamson County had 7 attending the IAHCE Conference in Effingham for at least part of the event. We were pleased to be honored as a county celebrating 100 years.



Williamson County celebrating 100 Years



DISTRICT 7 NEWS

➔ Williamson County, continued



Shown with the 100 year award for Williamson Co. are Charlene Morris, president, right and Marie Samuel, left.



First Timers recognized at the Wednesday luncheon
 From left: Elaine Fletcher, Nancy Throgmorton, Ann Collins, and far right is Oleta Massie

Marie Samuel
 Public Relations, Williamson County

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CELEBRATING 101 YEARS!

Williamson County HCE will be celebrating its 100th birthday in April at our Annual Meeting. We will have great food and a big Birthday Cake to mark the occasion. Janel Kassing will install our officers and Lynn Heines will be in attendance also.

We have changed over the years. We started out as Williamson County Home Improvement Association. In 1920, our name changed to Williamson County Home Bureau. In 1994, our name changed again this time to Williamson County Home and Community Education.

Our lessons have changed big time. When we first started the main subjects were canning and how to maintain and keep a tidy home. Boy, have we come a long way, now it's how to navigate the internet, how to use the newest I phone, how to cook for one or two and some lessons I wish we didn't have to have like human trafficking but we have to keep up on current events. The good old days sound better all the time but we have to keep moving forward and growing and bring younger women into HCE.

Williamson County will be hosting the Five County Meeting on September. 20th at the K.C. Hall in Marion, Il. This includes Franklin, Jackson, Randolph, Perry and Williamson County but everyone is welcome to attend. I know several other Counties will be celebrating 100 years sometime this year to them all Happy Birthday from Williamson County.

Charlene Morris
 President, Williamson County



2018 IAHCE Celebration at the Crossroads

Celebrations are a part of everyone's life ... from the very beginning, even before we are born. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, parents, holidays, special occasions, and for any reason these days! When we think of celebrations, what comes to mind is happy faces, a good feeling in our hearts, and sharing with others. Isn't this what HCE is all about? We celebrate our members and the community through quality programming and community service. Positively communicating our shared story throughout the State of Illinois not only encourages our members but also causes others to notice IAHCE. Mother Teresa said "Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the heart of people." Let's apply this quote to HCE.

Go into your county and shine your HCE light brightly. Let your presence light new light in HCE! The new light would be new members!

As the 2nd Vice President, our goal is to not only retain current members but also to gain new members.

Your Membership Challenge for 2018 is:
Create an event that allows your County to shine a light on HCE in your community. Your presence will light new light in HCE!

How many "new members will it take to light up HCE" so that Illinois shines brightly?!

Angela Hicks
 IAHCE 2nd Vice President



MANY THANKS
for your help with the
Silent Auction!

Marilyn DeVies, Carla Meyer,
 Ann Runkle, Janice Fryer

Bev Combs and Kathleen Emery, Co-Chairs, Silent Auction

SUPPORT FUND REPORT

Livingston County HCE Awarded Support Fund Trust Grant

The Livingston County Home and Community Education (HCE) Board has been awarded a grant from the Illinois HCE Board for a cooperative project including seven local HCE Units, Futures Unlimited, Inc. and Salem 4 Youth in rural Flanagan. These three organizations have been working together for several months on this ongoing project.

The goal of the project is to support the mission of the Salem 4 Youth Ranch while encouraging cooperation among the three organizations. Young men at Salem 4 Youth Ranch set behavioral goals that will prepare them to function successfully in society. As a reward for meeting their goals they may choose a fleece blanket for their bunk. The ranch staff strives to have a variety of blankets for the young men to choose. HCE members searched for fleece with prints that would appeal to them.

Each of seven local HCE units, including Charlotte, Cullom, Long Point, Pleasant Ridge, Rooks Creek, Rooks Creek Starlights and Town and Country, purchased fleece for a blanket and cut the fringe on the edges. Most units purchased fleece for more than one blanket. The state grant will reimburse each unit for part or all of the cost of one blanket.

Next, the prepared blankets were taken to the Timber Street Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) sponsored by Futures Unlimited, Inc. There, with the supervision of staff, the clients work together to tie the fringe into knots, making the blankets ready for use. These clients participate in the developmental training (DT) program at FUI which helps them enrich life experiences by creating educational, social, and work opportunities. A main focus of the DT program is community integration including volunteerism.

Finally, the proud clients presented finished blankets to HCE Board members who delivered them to the Salem 4 Youth Ranch. So far eight blankets had been delivered with more to come from this ongoing project. The successful project will be featured in the display at the IAHCE State Conference in Effingham, March 13-15, 2018. Livingston County HCE members are pleased to be able to coordinate this project to serve these residents of Livingston County.

Livingston County Board members in front of some of the fleece blankets that will be presented to Salem 4 Youth.

Left to right; Brenda Collins, Shirley Meenen, Arlene Martell, Joan Haren, Connie Kostelc, Peggy Vaughan, Linda Vercler and Ellie Bossert,



IAHCE District Directors Awarded Support Fund Trust Grant

The 2017 IAHCE District Workshops were held August 8 - 10, 2017. The District Directors work to provide exciting and educating workshops. Due to rising costs for food, travel, cost of printing and speaker fees, we sent an application to the Support Fund committee last year. It was approved and were provided monies to offset the costs of these work shops.

The Workshops are provided to the counties officers by the IAHCE board officers who travel the state for three days along with a special speaker. This is where the next year's topics are released to those counties to ready themselves for the upcoming year. It is a time to ask the IAHCE officers questions about how to get new members, lessons, or any problems that may arise in their counties, etc.

With this extra money the state board can continue to travel that one time of the year to meet many members who cannot get to a state conference. We thank the Support Fund committee for helping us continue this time to work with all of our members throughout the state of Illinois.

Sharon Middleton and Angela Hicks

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT WINNERS — 2018

**188 entries
37 counties**

Categories	Number	Description	Name	County
100 Artwork	109		Rose Kremer	Effingham
200 Counted Cross Stitch	201	Hot air balloon	Joan Rossi	Kane
300 Crafts	302	Doll and Clothes	Sharon Scherer	Monroe
400 Crochet Afghans	409	Horses	Sylvia Dust	Effingham
500 Cro9cher-Other	502	Doily	Betty Gross	Monroe
600 Hand Embroidery	607	Butterfly coverlet	Fayellen Sanetra	Carroll
700 Q H/M Pieced/H q./HCE	702	Trip Around the World quilt	Sandy Becc	Effingham
800 Heritage Needlework	805	Tatted necklace	Rebecca DeLong	Pike
900 Jewelry	901	Australian Crystals	Angela Hicks	Lake
1000 Knit Afghans	1005	Baby lace blue afghan	Claudia Harju	Madison
1100 Knit-other	1103	Multi color tunic	Carolyn Fisher	DuPage
1200 Machine Embroidery	1203	State of Illinois	Donna Pinger	Mercer
1300 Machine quilted/pieced and quilted by HCE	1305	Bird and artwork quilt	Evelyn Eades	Piatt
1400 Nature Items	1405	Dried flower picture	Missy Chitwood	Champaign
1500 Photography	1510	Field sunflower	Sonja Bishop	Pike
1600 Quilt made by HCE, Quilted by Non HCE	1602	Quilt butterfly	Betty Gross	Monroe
1700 Quilted	1703	Quilt hand applique	Ruth Nagel	Randolph
1800 Recycle	1806	2 angels	Becky Kendall	LaSalle
1900 Scrapbooking	1902	Cousins	Dawn Laird	Jefferson
2000 Table runners	2005	Table runner	Rose Mary Martin	Livingston
2100 Wearable art	2103	Beige denim jacket	Linda Vercler	Livingston
2200 Wall Hanging	2205	Christmas wall hanging	Rose Ann Rendl	Lake
2300 Current Annual Theme	2307	Red-white-blue lap quilt	Linda Belford	Pike

TOP FIVE ITEMS

109	Rose Kremer	Effingham	Art work
1302	Berniece Harp	Edgar	Pieced and quilted by HCE
1401	Joan Anderson	LaSalle	Nature items
1602	Betty Gross	Monroe	Quilted by non-HCE
1703	Ruth Nagel	Randolph	Quilted other



WALL OF HONOR — EDUCATION AWARDS 2017

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AWARDS
Peggy Long, IAHCE Director

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ISSUES
Sharon Davis, IAHCE Director



TEXTILES

- DeWitt County District 5
 Made 15 activity mats for the local nursing home and five walker bags per request for the local Alzheimer’s unit.
- Effingham County District 6
 Had “sew days” to show people how to make walker and wheelchair caddies, breast pillows and fidget blankets.
- Massac County District 7
 Worked with Massac County 4-H’ers to sew Log Cabin quilt pattern, made a pillow, used an embroidery machine.

HERITAGE SKILLS

- Cumberland County District 5
 Teamed with other groups to make 150 Little Dresses for Africa to Liberia, 150 pairs of underwear, 25 dresses to Ethiopia.
- Jersey County District 6
 Taught 4-H girls how to hand sew and make different stitches and techniques on a bag that they got to take home.
- Perry County District 7
 Holiday Idea days - Home for the Holidays, Then & Now. Had guest speakers, sang Christmas Carols, ‘make and take’ Christmas Card, new twist on Fondue in a crock pot.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

- Kane County District 2/3
 Sponsored a narrated excursion aboard “The Fox River Queen” paddle wheel riverboat and learned about points of interest along the river.
- Macon County District 5
 Visited Prairie Fire Glass, Monticello, learned the process to make molten glass objects and blown glass.
- Monroe County District 6
 Had a “Tea with Lady Washington” in conjunction with their cultural art show days at Monroe County Museum.
- Jefferson County District 7
 Sponsored an educational guided trip of the city of Alton; learned about the underground railroad sites, toured the Jersey County Historical Society.

FAMILY LIVING, SAFETY

- Jersey County District 6
 Along with the Royal Neighbors of America Chapter 146 and Jerseyville Public Library to purchase nine American Girl dolls, books and outfits for children to check out of the library; celebrated with a tea party with 30 girls along with mothers attending.
- Perry County District 7
 Honored First Responders - made baskets, delivered the baskets and personally thanked the first responders in their county; purchased signs saying HCE “We Love and Support our First Responders”.

HEALTH, FOOD & NUTRITION

- Massac County District 7
 “Together We Can” Collaborated efforts with other organizations to sponsored: 1. Nutritional snack program. 2. Worked together to provide snacks for the five 911 Emergency Response Teams in the county.

CITIZENSHIP, ENVIRONMENT

- Champaign County District 5
 Adopting Group Homes for adults with disabilities through Development Services Center, they make sure residents are remembered on their birthday and holidays.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

- Stephenson County District 1
 Helped with the Stephenson County AG breakfast; donating coffee cakes, handed out lessons and recipes to promote HCE and agriculture.
- McLean County District 5
 Honored first responders, veterans and local police; to educate members on preventing crime and abuse. Military personnel were sent comfort boxes and Christmas stockings.
- Effingham County District 6
 Presented to the VFW Christmas stockings, Christmas cards with envelopes and wheelchair caddies.



GRAND AWARD
MC LEAN COUNTY

Formed a 4-H spin club for beginning seamstress; each had to enter at least one thing in the County Fair.



GRAND AWARD
MONROE COUNTY

Project was Ronald McDonald house collecting tabs, labels and helping in other ways.

WALL OF HONOR — EDUCATION AWARDS 2017

INTERNATIONAL
Pat Weitzmann, IAHCE Director



PUBLIC RELATIONS
Pat Hildebrand, IAHCE Director



COUNTRY OF STUDY

- Lake County District 2/3
Philippines - Terrific and well documented project.
- Pike County District 4
Philippines - Well orchestrated education plan.
- Vermilion County District 5
Philippines - 64% member attendance at informative luncheon.
- Clay County District 6
Philippines - Plans, goals, accomplishments clear
- Wayne County District 7
Philippines - Multi-faceted program well planned.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY OF STUDY

- Lee County District 1
Kenya - Education and ACWW support activities commendable.
- Edgar County District 5
Cuba - Educating about a "North American Neighbor" done well.
- Effingham County District 6
Japan - Impressive event attendance figures and survey.
- Perry County District 7
Norway - 4-H Passport Party partnership enjoyed popularity.

SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT

- Stephenson County District 1
Philippines - Networking for speaker well done.
- Kankakee County District 2/3
Philippines - Networking and research well done.
- Sangamon County District 4
Philippines event & Baltic States Outboard Exchange sharing. Great Duo!
- Macon County District 5
Philippines - Educational displays very well done.
- Monroe County District 6
Philippines - Entire Report Booklet very well done.
- Massac County District 7
Philippines - Two guest speakers enhanced the learning experience.

HCE WEEK

- Stephenson County District 1
Display of the history of SCAHCE, IAHCE, NVON, CWC and ACWW and HCE lesson handouts set up at the Stephenson County Visitor & Convention Center.
- Macon County District 5
A variety of quality activities and programs aimed in educating the public about the value of HCE were offered throughout the week.
- Jefferson County District 7
Activities during the week involved members and the public in numerous events; gained 2 members.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Pike County District 4
Promoted involvement in educational programs, scholarships for youth and special project awareness.
- McLean County District 5
Newsletters, newspapers, websites, emails and US mail, Facebook, flyers and parades are just the beginning of the 100th Anniversary celebration and HCE promotion.
- Massac County District 7
Promoted HCE education and fun activities and events through a variety of media outlets; gave 2 scholarships.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Stephenson County District 1
A Festival of Trees with the theme: "Snowflakes are one of Nature's Most Fragile Things - But Just Look What They can do When They Stick Together", was a great opportunity to network among the 25 groups participating and the attendees to the event.
- Madison County District 6
Christmas in November featured a Silent Auction, raffle, catered meal and live entertainment. Over 1,000 members of the community learned more about HCE.
- Perry County District 7
First Responders were recognized with "goodie baskets." Over 300 First Responder signs were ordered and distributed across the state with requests for more.



GRAND AWARD
MADISON COUNTY

Philippines - Thorough and Memorable at Every Level - Earned 100 points!



GRAND AWARD
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Series of activities designated to celebrate and promote HCE; gained 2 members.

WALL OF HONOR — EDUCATION AWARDS 2017

CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS

Ashley Davis, IAHC Director



MEMBERSHIP

Angela Hicks, IAHC Director



County with the highest number of hours reported:

District 1:	Stephenson	12,537
District 2/3:	Kane	23,325
District 4:	Tazewell	25,995
District 5:	Champaign	33,803
District 6:	Macoupin	22,661
District 7:	Franklin	19,268

County with highest percentage of members participating:

District 1:	Mercer	85.7%
District 2/3:	Grundy	100. %
District 4:	Adams	72.1%
District 5:	Macon	100 %
District 6:	Effingham	60 %
District 7:	Jefferson	94.3%
District 7:	Jefferson	94.3%

County with the highest number of members participating:

District 1:	JoDaviess	46
District 2/3:	Kane	79
District 4:	Adams	134
District 5:	McLean	175
District 6:	Macoupin	60
District 7:	Jefferson	65

CVH Dedication Awards # Years - Total Hours

District 1	Stephenson	Diana Ethridge	18	22,442
District 2/3	DuPage	Carolyn Fisher	20	37,605
District 2/3	DuPage	Mylon Fisher	20	7,042
District 4	Sangamon	Margurite Dixon	22	9,791
District 6	Madison	Charlene Bandy	17	4,886
District 7	White	Frances Ackerman	16	2,495
District 7	White	Shirley Harris	17	2,578
District 7	White	Pasty Jackson	18	6,483
District 7	White	Linda Jackson	16	8,979
District 7	White	Elaine Simmons	17	4,957

NET GAIN

Jo Davies County	1	4.35%
Winnebago County	2/3	1.10%
Sangamon County	4	.74%
Richland County	6	7.29% (Awarded Plaque)
Perry County	7	4.76%

MOST MEMBERS GAINED

Warren County	1	7 Members
Kane County	2/3	8 Members
Sangamon County	4	11 Members
Mc Lean County	5	16 Members
Richland County	6	20 Members
Perry County	7	16 Members

ACTIVITIES

McLean County District 5
Excellent objectives, activities/events and presence in community which garnered new members!

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Macon County District 5
Excellent execution of an event! The event promoted Macon County HCE as well as quality programming. Most importantly, gaining 2 new members!



**GRAND AWARD
MC LEAN COUNTY**

Excellence in marketing HCE through various events/ activities; media coverage; gaining 16 new members.

2017 COUNTY OF THE YEAR—76 OR MORE



MACON COUNTY

2017 COUNTY OF THE YEAR—75 OR LESS



MASSAC COUNTY

SARA KENNY VISITS ILLINOIS.....

LAKE COUNTY—Pat Weitzmann, Host

*Milburn Middle School, Wadsworth, IL (NOTE: Sara received 98 thank you letters from the students who saw her presentations) * Grohmann Museum, Milwaukee, WI * Lake County HCE Board member Breakfast at M. Hilliard's home



LA SALLE—Sandra Martin, Host

*Australia lesson * Room decorated with green and boomerangs * 100th Anniversary cake * Lunch at café after farm tour * Riding an adult Norwegian or Swedish teeter totter



KANE COUNTY—Nancy Haire, Host

* John Deere Visitors Center, Moline, IL * DeBlock farm * trip to grain elevator * HCE meeting at Susan's home



SANGAMON COUNTY Mary Johnson, Host

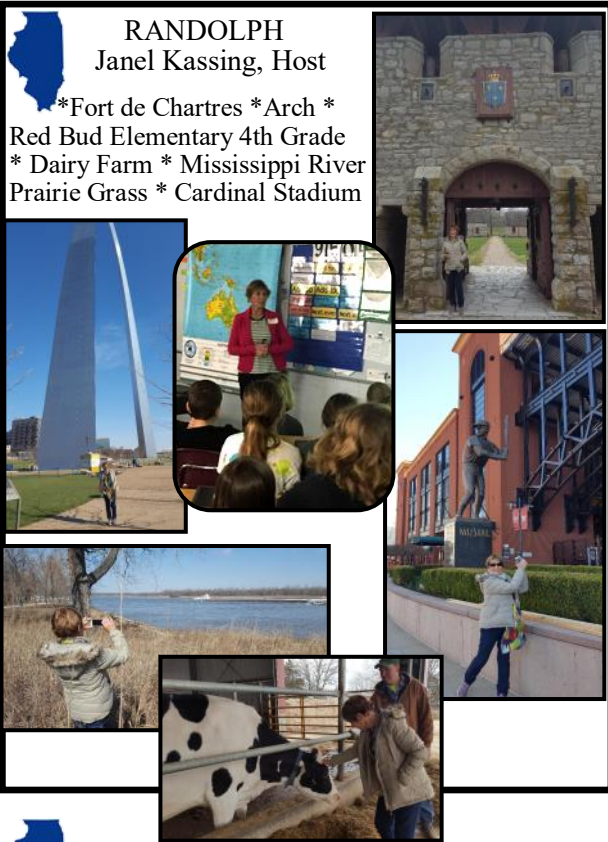
*Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum * Meet & Greet *Lincoln's Tomb



FAYETTE COUNTY Debbie Sequest, Host

*Old State House *Little Brick House *Museum





RANDOLPH
Janel Kassing, Host

*Fort de Chartres *Arch *
Red Bud Elementary 4th Grade
* Dairy Farm * Mississippi River
Prairie Grass * Cardinal Stadium

IAHCE T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Description: 100% cotton; purple with white state logo
Request logo on either back or front

T-Shirt: \$15.00 each S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___
(QTY) (QTY) (QTY) (QTY)

T-Shirt: \$17.50 each /XXL ___ XXXL ___
(QTY) (QTY)

Logo on Back ___ Front ___

LAST DAY TO ORDER — JULY 2, 2018

Will be delivered at the District Meetings

Order now!! This may be the last time the Tees will be ordered!

Make checks payable to : IAHCE

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Send check to: Janel Kassing
328 S. Main Street
Red Bud, IL 62778**



FULTON COUNTY
Catherine Eathington, Host

* Palm Sunday Service at Catholic
Church of Saint Augustine * Sara's
first encounter with snow.

See Fulton County News - Page 23.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

County _____

DATES TO REMEMBER

IAHCE District Workshops

District 1 and 2/3 August 7, 2018
United Methodist Church
160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL

District 4 and 5 August 8, 2018
Chateau Hotel & Convention Center
1621 Jumer Drive, Bloomington, IL

District 6 and 7 August 9, 2018
St. Johns Lutheran Church
901 W. Jefferson, Effingham, IL

20th Annual NVON Conference
Pewaukee, WI July 16-18, 2018

CWC/ACWW Area Meeting
Dubuque, IA September 9-12, 2018

95th Annual IAHCE Conference
Effingham, IL March 12-14, 2019

ACWW Triennial Conference
Melbourne, Australia April 3-10, 2019

2017 Pennies for Friendship Contribution Awards

Congratulations

District 1	Warren County	\$ 8.41
District 2/3	Lake County	\$ 6.94
District 4	Sangamon	\$ 3.00
District 5	McLean	\$ 3.44
District 6	Clinton	\$ 5.33
District 7	Pulaski-Alexander	\$ 3.78

Greatest average contribution per county member

Award Certificates presented at IAHCE Annual Conference

*Thank you wholeheartedly to all county HCE/HEA
organizations and individuals that contributed
Pennies for Friendship in year 2017.*

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Deadlines for Articles- April 1, July 1, November 1



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Checks to: IAHCCE