

THE IAHCE CHRONICLE



*Change is to grow, Grow is
to become*

Inside This Issue:

Board Member Contact Info – page 1
President's Letter – page 2
Executive Board Reports – pages 3-5
Education Reports – pages 6-9
Nominating Committee Report-
pages 9-10
District News – pages 10-34
Scholarship Info- pages 34-35
Obituaries- pages 35-36
Important Dates- page 36
ACWW Recap- page 37
County of the Year- page 38

Conference Insert Includes:

- ~Registration and hotel information
- ~Share shop and workshop descriptions
- ~T-shirt and bag order form
- ~Menu, Agenda, and Ad information
- ~Make and Take It information

PLUS THE CONFERENCE INSERT

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NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS



Angela Hicks - *Positively Your IAHCE President*

Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

Do you remember hearing the old adage: “Where there's a will, there's a way”? It is a proverb that means **if someone is determined to do something, he/she will find a way to accomplish it regardless of obstacles**. I feel that has been our journey since 2020. As I have traveled and visited with various HCE counties throughout Illinois, I have certainly heard about how many of you found a way to meet with each other. For example: Units had “open air” meetings in backyards and parks; County Boards found places willing to allow HCE members to meet; and other Counties overcame their fear of the internet and met by video conferencing. HCE Members are resilient and willing to make changes when obstacles are placed before them! Where does this attitude come from one might ask? I believe the HCE Mission is why our members were able to overcome the obstacles of the last year.

The Illinois Association for Home and Community Education enhances the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community.

However, the IAHCE Board and I do realize that despite the willingness to find a way some of the counties may be struggling to survive. We implore you to speak up and ask for help. The IAHCE Board is willing and able to help come up with strategies to survive. Please don't suffer in silence and think that no one cares and is not willing to help. All of our names, phone numbers, and email addresses are listed in this newsletter and on the website for your convenience. Make the call, we are here to help!

As you browse the newsletter and the 2022 Conference insert you will notice changes with the biggest change being the registration price. Like the rest of the world, we have been faced with rising costs and as much as we are reluctant to make this type of change, we must for the good of the organization. We hope this will not deter you from attending what looks to be an “inspiring and fun” conference!

The 2022 Conference Chairs and their committee have worked especially hard to make this an event full of inspiration! Personally, the “Aspire to Inspire” theme speaks to me on many levels. Where does your inspiration come from? Mine is all around me—from God, my family, my friends, the beauty of the landscape, sounds, and sometimes silence! If it has been a long time since you have attended a conference or you have never attended a conference, now is the time!

I want to extend a personal invitation to all Counties to complete the “County of the Year” application. I know (because I did) you might think “I'll never be eligible for this award, why bother.” As positive as I normally appear, there was still a little fear and doubt that kept me from completing the form. As I read the questions and the guidelines, I realized “Hey, Angela, your county did some of these things—complete the form”. As I completed the form, it became a summary of all the good we did and showed us where improvements could be made. Each year I complete the application in anticipation of seeing if and how much we improved over the last year. So I encourage each county to complete the “County of the Year” application and send it in to me so not only will you see what good things you do in your county, so will I!! Who knows YOU might be the next “County of the Year”! **Congratulations to the Grand Winners: Jefferson County, District 5 in the category of “Over 75 County Members” and Fayette County, District 4 in the category of “75 and Under County Members”!**

I encourage each of you to continue to be positive and to continue building membership in HCE! I look forward to seeing you in your county or at special meetings! Have a joyous Holiday Season and a healthy and successful New Year!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st VICE PRESIDENT - Mary Eustace

The holidays are rolling around fast. Is it just me or does time really fly by when you keep yourself busy? I so enjoyed the August Workshops this year. It gave me greater appreciation of our HCE activities and the sound of laughter from everyone in attendance. I am so grateful for everything I have in my life. It was so great to see our members throughout the state and just to be able to mingle again.



We will be having a few changes to our conference awards night this next March. Although handing out the 2020 Education Awards at each District Workshop went smoothly, we as a state board felt that Tuesday Night Awards make for a long evening. The changes we have come up with are that on Tuesday night we will hand out the Grand Awards, County of the Year and Member of the Year awards. The remaining Education Awards will be presented in your District Director Share Shops on Thursday morning. That leaves Tuesday evening for a band and live music to enjoy!

I hope any of you that feel you have some suggestions for new lessons will feel free to email me with your ideas. I am in communication with our University of Illinois Extension Liaison, and she will be happy to give these ideas to her team to develop lessons for our members.

Our March conference hopes to bring fun and education to your experiences that you share with old and new friends! Please join us in March 2022. See our invitation insert.

You may not always see the results of your kindness but every bit of positive energy you contribute to this world makes it a better place for all of us! Always be kind.
Sincerely,

Mary Eustace
Celebrate our Past and Awaken our Future



2nd VICE PRESIDENT - Norma Korte



Hello, everyone!

As of this writing our harvest is done for the 2021 season, and we are grateful to have everything in the bins for storage.

Perhaps now I can get some “honey do jobs” completed! Steve and I (pictured) were able to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this past July with a few friends and family.

What a year we have had! I was glad we could present “The Awards Night” to counties during the District Workshops. Although different from the conference presentation, we hope this method provided a greater number of members a chance to be a part of the event.

It is time to prepare your award applications for 2022 Conference “Aspire to Inspire.” Be sure to get your membership reports (included in your 2nd Vice President packet at District Workshop) to District Directors by January 5, and send your membership award applications to me by January 31.



The butterfly is still showing us how we can transform IAHCE to a beautiful refreshing organization. We have a lot to offer new and old members. I can easily think back to when I would hear my mother, a charter member, tell someone

about HCE (Home Bureau) and how they could learn to help their families and community through this wonderful organization. Even though I earned my Home Economics B.S. Degree, my mom would always say she had learned just as much as I have because of her involvement in HCE membership through the years.

Reflecting on our discussions from the 2nd Vice President session, we discussed how we can all help new members feel welcome when we LISTEN to their ideas, TRY new ways/ideas, CALL prospective members, and INVITE them to meetings and activities FIND common interests. HAVE FUN! If nearby counties have recently disbanded, reach out to people who are part of those units and invite them to join your group.

Be willing to change and adjust to different ways of learning. Both in-person and online webinars can be effective methods to offer lessons. Karla and the other Extension Educators have made lessons more available for everyone to take part in by way of online options. If you haven't tried one of the webinars, please take the time to do so. You will not be disappointed!

Let's make it a memorable year for increasing IAHCE membership! The butterfly had to go through the struggles of the restricted cocoon to make its body stronger and achieve the ability to spread its wings and fly. Sometimes we must go through struggles in life to make us stronger too. Let's learn from the butterfly – change may be hard, but we can become a more beautiful person/organization because of those changes and struggles. Please consider making it a goal to invite friends and neighbors to your meetings and events. I think you'll be surprised at how many will want to join! This will be my last newsletter article as your 2nd Vice President. Thank you for the opportunity of being an IAHCE officer. The friendships I have made all over the state are very special to me.

Sincerely,
Norma Korte

SECRETARY - Cathy Eathington

I welcome all IAHCE Members to our 2022 Annual Conference on March 15-17, 2022 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. All the information for the Conference will be in this issue of the Chronicle and the President Packet that your County President will get in December. Due to the cost of everything going up, it became necessary for us to raise our registration fee. We are very sad that this was necessary.

I will be holding a Share Shop for all County Secretaries and hope to see many of you at that time. As you will see in the Conference material, there will be several share shops, entertainment, vendors and the election of a 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Cultural Enrichment Chairman, and a Family/Issues Chairman. The information about each officer candidate is listed in this issue of the Chronicle as well as the President's Packet.

Other dates to put on your calendars:

- District Workshops August 9-11, 2022 beginning in District 1&2
- CWC Conference September 20-22, 2022 North Little Rock, Arkansas
- NVON Conference July 25-27, 2022 Evansville, Indiana

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in March.

Cathy



TREASURER - Melissa Chitwood

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The future depends on what we do in the present”. Some of you may have heard our IAHCe President, Angela Hicks, challenge counties to gain 100 new members by 2024. Why 2024? That is the year of IAHCe’s 100th celebration! We do have a little time to take on her challenge, but we need to get started now! Let’s show her we can do this! December is a time of giving. Why not consider giving a membership to HCE? It would be the gift that gives all year long and offers many benefits through our lessons, events, volunteer work and friendships.



This past year our theme has been Change is to Grow - Grow is to Become. We’ve been hearing about change for several months now in different aspects of our lives. Change is everywhere! Why are so many people resistant to change? Is it the fear of the unknown that change may bring? Perhaps, it is the lack of control we have over change? Change is to Grow, Grow is to Become.

Change is to Grow, Grow is to Become. Let’s just think about that for a brief moment. Change. What can I change? How about serving on a board: your unit board, your county board, your state board? You can make a difference! Let your voice be heard, move into action! Nothing gets done when we do nothing.

Top 5 Reasons to serve on an HCE Board

1. You will be serving an organization you believe in
2. You will learn more about how the organization works, be privy to the inner workings, and what it takes to organize events.
3. Your voice can be heard – and it has impact. You’ll hear the impactful voices of others, too
4. **Serving on a board is your chance to make a difference.**
5. You’ll care more than you thought you could about HCE and the friends you make.

The 3 C’s in Life
Choice, Chance, Change



You must make the **Choice**, to take the **Chance**, if you want anything in life to **Change**.
Collaborate effectively, Contribute comfortably
Make the **choice**, to take the **chance** and make a **change**.

As a reminder, Friendship Projects Fund donations can still be sent in. If they are postmarked after November 20th, your county cannot take credit on the County of the Year forms for Friendship Projects Fund, but funds received by the end of 2021 will still be included for 2022 distribution. Dues should be mailed by January 5. Check your membership records with your county 2nd Vice President so you both agree on the same membership number. Transmittal forms for these transactions are located on our website, iahce.org in the Guidebook section, pages 22 and 23.

There may be duties at the conference that I could use some volunteer assistance, such as the silent auction, selling 50/50 raffle tickets, etc. If you are interested in helping out, please email me at mchitwoo@illinois.edu.

I look forward to 2022 and seeing everyone at Annual Conference in March. May the changes you made in 2021 lead you to “Aspire to Inspire”! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Melissa



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cultural Enrichment - Sonya Bishop

This is my last newsletter as your Cultural Enrichment Director. While it has been a shortened term, last year was a learning experience in different ways for us all. We learned a new vocabulary, how to adjust our activities, how important spatial awareness was and still is, and how to wear a required accessory. We learned to socialize in a different and safe manner. We are still learning how to navigate our new situations. All of us are learning to manipulate restrictions, whether it is meeting locations or how many people can attend. Some of us learned new skills. I know I learned my limitations and will always strive to work with others when I need assistance in the future.



A few people were in the CE position, but there is one actual nominee who will be voted in during the business meeting and will make an excellent CE Director. If you are a voting delegate, please check the conference insert when registering. Remember the entry dates. Everything must be postmarked by January 31. Be aware that the postal service has announced slower service and increased postage. Make sure the CE entries have a self-addressed stamped return envelope included. Please make sure and fill out the form completely. County, district #'s and description of items are very important. One entry sheet per county with phone numbers for all, in case I have questions. Good luck and learn something new!

Sonya Bishop

Family and Community Issues - Eleanor Gregory



Hello Everyone!

Warm greetings! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Oh, and may someone special bring you a sweet treat on February 14! Do you know what comes next? You are correct!! Our IAHCE Conference - March 15-17, 2022! I am excited to be the 2022 Conference Co-Chair with Mary Johnson. (Watch out! Sometimes we can cause trouble, but most of the time we like to have fun as we promote HCE!!)



Please plan to look in your Family and Community Issues packet handed out in August. In the packet you will find the forms for the four areas. A county may apply in ALL four areas!!! Fill out the form and create a “no-more-than-10-double-sided page document” that must be post marked by January 31 and sent to me. (Eleanor Gregory, PO 185, Alhambra, IL 62001) Applying is NOT all about winning a certificate. (However, that’s nice too!) It IS about documenting the hard work, ingenious activities, and educational opportunities that address the needs of your families and your communities. Sharing your accomplishments with the units in your county can motivate others while showing evidence of a project well done. **Focus** on a project. Choose one project that has been successful, and/or a new project that challenged your HCE members!

Don’t forget to apply for THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY OF THE YEAR! I encourage each county to select a family and honor this family in your own county. As a bonus, this family may be entered into the IAHCE State Contest! (Due also by January 31!) There are many families who would appreciate recognition for their dedication, perseverance, and simply put, HARD WORK! Let’s **focus** on new opportunities AND maybe we can attract new members in the process. See you in March! All the best and God bless.

Eleanor



International - Janel Kassing

Greetings to All and especially the International Directors,



Ciao (hello-very casual) or Buongiorno (good day). Hope you are all enjoying learning a little about the beautiful country of ITALY, which we will focus on next year. It makes me think of a big plate of pasta with a glass of wine out on a patio surrounded by olive or lemon trees on the coastline. How is that for a Calgon commercial; "take me away." Grab your passport and enjoy our global getaway. We will continue in Canada for the remainder of 2021 and then whisk away in our counties to Italy; not to begin until January 1, 2022.

I will be looking forward to reading all your international award projects. These are for our country of study, Canada, a different country of study or a special project. I will be expecting my mailbox to be brimming come January with these applications and look forward to reading them. I will also be watching for your stipend applications. Funding for this is "as normal" with only a few applications for 2020. Both of these are due to ME by January 31 and applications can be found on p.44 for the Stipend and p.66 for the international projects. Can't wait to read all about your county's events.

Grand awards for these 3 categories will be given out at the Awards banquet at conference. All other awards will be given in the district meetings on Thursday morning at conference.

At state board (Oct.17-20) it was reported that \$6693.09 was collected for Friendship Projects Fund in 2020. This money will be disbursed as follows: \$1673.27 each to Sustainable Agriculture Training and Development fund, the Maternal and Reproductive Health fund, and the General Fund of ACWW as per our bylaws. We also earmarked monies for the 4-H Foundation, county stipends and the International Peace Garden. These are typical monies. We use the other 25% of the funds for. I will attempt to explain this at conference further and have information available.

I have been trying to compile a list of countries studied and only have bits and pieces. If you have countries and the year studied, please let me know. I will compile a list and report it to all of you in the future. Thank you.

Zero Hunger dimes should be brought to conference to conclude this project in the form of a check written to IAHCE and turned in at registration. 1/2 of this will go to the Nutrition Fund of ACWW and half to Feeding Illinois Food Banks. Concerning funds, don't forget that your 2021 Friendship Projects Fund monies should be sent to MELISSA CHITWOOD, state treasurer by Nov. 20. The transmittal form is in the guidebook on Page 23. If you have problems finding any of these forms, please let me know.

Enjoy a beautiful Autumn and moving into the Christmas season—
Merry Christmas, Happy 2022, See you in March,
Janel



CVH (CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS)/SALES - Ashley Davis

As I type this, I can look out my computer room window and see the leaves are changing on our trees out back. I love the beautiful yellow, red, and orange colors and it helps me to think of how amazing nature really is. I always think and wonder what beautiful picture God is painting for us all next. It's exciting, so I say enjoy!!

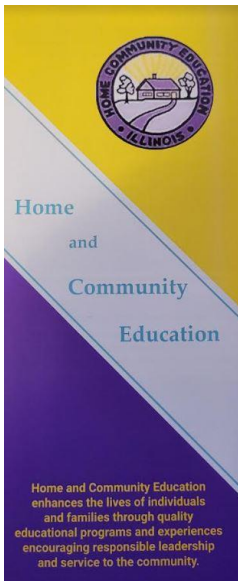
It's time to start getting those hours together and get them turned into your County CVH officer. This time of the year I get excited to see the envelopes in the mailbox. I know what's inside them and I am amazed every year. I know the year 2020 wasn't a good year, but you all still did a great job at volunteering even though we all were locked down. I just know that the year 2021 is going to be even better since we all had a little more freedom to get out and do more. Be sure to remember that the hours must be postmarked (emailed hours must be sent by midnight) by January 31, 2022 to be

eligible for IAHCE State awards. You can find the Individual CVH Summary on page 54 and the CVH County Summary on page 56 in the IAHCE Guidebook. Make sure the names are in alphabetical order by the member's last name. If you email the report to me, make sure you send the report as an attachment. If you type it or copy and paste it into the email message itself, it doesn't always print out correctly. I want to make sure that each member is credited for the right number of hours.

You all know that we have been learning that Change is to Grow, Grow is to Become! There will be a **CHANGE** in the CVH awards. Wait before you all say, "What Now?". On awards night I will be handing out three awards. There will be a **Grand Award** given for CVH. CVH Grand Award will be for the county with the highest total of hours reported. The other 2 awards will be the county with the highest HCE hours reported and the county with the highest number of members participating. The other awards will be in the CVH packets that will be handed out in the CVH share shop at conference.

Be ready for the certificates of recognition, which will have a whole **New** look! You know that we took away the gold seals in 2020, so I put my brain to work (I know, scary thought) on how I could change the certificates. I wanted to make them more eye catching and FANCY. I added some color to them. I think you all will be happy with the changes!

For sales, we are bringing back the IAHCE brochure!! The brochures were a **HOT** item in sales a couple of years ago. These are informative and you will be able to add a label with your county's information on each one. We are offering a pre-sale on the brochures because they sold out very fast the last time we had them. There will be only 2500 ordered so if your county would like to order brochures, please send an email or call me with the amount your county would like to order. I will mail or email an invoice to your county. Mail a check to Melissa or Ashley, made out to IAHCE. Please make sure if you email the order that you include the address where the invoice should be sent. Paying for them in advance will make it easier to have the order ready for pick up at the annual conference. The cost is \$10.00 for 25 brochures. To place a brochure order contact: Ashley Davis CVH/Sales at 618-704-9062 or by email at dadavis8755@gmail.com.



Keep your eye on the sales table for an awesome new item. There will be a limited amount of the item at the sales table, but you will also be able to pre-order this amazing new item and it will be delivered at the August workshops. I will say that I am **EXCITED** for you all to see this!!! Look at our state website for the sales items. We have discounted the white 1-inch stickers to 12/\$1.00, the 2-inch are 10/\$1.00 & the 3-inch are 6/\$1.00. You will see that we have our IAHCE Notecards in color now and those are 10 cards with envelopes for \$4.00.

I hope you all are **EXCITED** to attend the IAHCE Annual Conference. I know I am! Be sure to make your reservation and be ready to cut loose and have some fun!! You never know what the IAHCE State Board has come up with each year. I do hope we all can **Aspire to Inspire** someone or even ourselves.

From my Family to Yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God bless ya'll. Stay Safe and hope to see ya'll in March.

Ashley Davis



Public Relations - Emily McDowell

Season's Greetings! Can you believe it's already December? Before you know it, we will be sitting at our annual conference. This will be my first conference as your Public Relations Director and I'm getting excited! I can't wait to see what everyone brings to our PR meeting. This year we will be handing out our Public Relations awards at conference during our PR meeting instead of during the Tuesday night awards night.



How is everyone doing with their PR packet? I'd love to hear what ideas you have used and what you have done on your own. I have really enjoyed hearing about all of the things each county has done during HCE Week. You are all so creative! Speaking of creativity, my county is doing a craft camp in January.

You can get all the details in the Madison County article and email me for registration forms. It's open to anyone (members or not). My email is emhohl@gmail.com.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and that you stay safe from now until March so you can join us at the 2022 Aspire to Inspire Conference!

As we enter this holiday season, remember to promote your Christmas parties, events, and gatherings. It's the perfect time of year to introduce people to HCE!

Emily



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The IAHCE Nominating Committee interviewed potential candidates for the IAHCE Board in October. The following individuals will be placed on the ballot for the Conference Business Meeting scheduled for March 16th, 2022.



Mary Johnson - Second Vice

I am applying for the IAHCE office of 2nd Vice President. I love HCE and am willing to serve in any capacity that will help HCE grow and change to meet the needs of its members. As a district director, I had the opportunity to visit counties and talk directly with members and leaders. In every county I visit, the question of "how do we attract new members" is asked repeatedly. My goal as 2nd Vice President would be to give our district directors ideas and resources to answer this question effectively. I have seen many wonderful ideas in our own state Chronicle. Several counties are attracting new members and we can use their ideas to help others.

I will also have the opportunity to stress membership with county level 2nd VP's at the district workshop and annual meeting. This contact will help reinforce information they are receiving from their district director as well as keeping membership goals first and foremost in their minds. As I will be responsible for writing the District Newsletter after board meetings, I would like to see the format changed from a simple two-page letter to an actual newsletter format. Our district newsletter contains so much worthy information, but I feel our current format is cumbersome to read and important deadlines can be missed. Color and a few graphics would enhance the readability of the information.

I am excited for a new challenge! I have loved working with the state board and I look forward to a new role with IAHCE.



Cathy Eathington - Secretary

If I am re-elected to the position of secretary, I will continue to do the job as I am now. I will bring my love for the HCE organization and my ability to work well with others. I feel I am qualified for another term as HCE secretary.



Becky Belcher - Cultural Enrichment

I have never held a position on the state board so this would be a new venture for me. I'm sure there is much to learn and I am willing and able to accept the challenge of learning and carrying out the duties of the office. I have an interest in art, home décor, sewing, photography, and crafts. I like DIY projects of all kinds - I built the desk I'm sitting at to type this piece. I love reading, writing, and illustrating. I like all kinds of music from county and bluegrass to rock, classical and jazz (But to be honest, I'm not too fond of opera).



I know an interest in the above doesn't qualify me for the position, but I believe it is a good starting point. I am able to write and implement lessons. I can organize events. I consider myself a good communicator, especially person to person or in small groups. However, speaking in front of a large crowd scares me. I consider myself proficient on the computer. I am able to attend board meetings and the annual conference.

Eleanor Gregory - Family and Community Issues



I, Eleanor Gregory, am applying for the position of Family and Community Education Director. I plan to be a vital part of the IAHCE board. To do this I will be following the recommended guidelines and supporting the board in all of their endeavors to make HCE a place of action as well as words of encouragement. In addition, I will apply my creativity and insight from having served in this position in the past. It is obvious by looking at the numbers presently participating in the HCE organization, that a connection needs so be made by the leadership on the board with the County Family and Community Issues Directors to encourage them in all of the work they are doing with their wonderful projects and activities that are helping their local families and communities. My second objective is to challenge them to do something NEW to create excitement for present members to take part and hopefully draw new members into the "fun" of making a difference in their communities.



DISTRICT 1 NEWS



DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR - Becky Thomas

The time has come to start planning for the State Conference. I am on the BINGO committee this year. I hope that there will be some excited players that will attend it. I usually just hand out cards when I help our Pearl City Lions Community Bingo. If you read this and want to help, it would be greatly appreciated. I hope that many of you have reached out to the IAHCE website. May we work to aspire to inspire membership this year. Thank you for your dedication to your county's HCE.

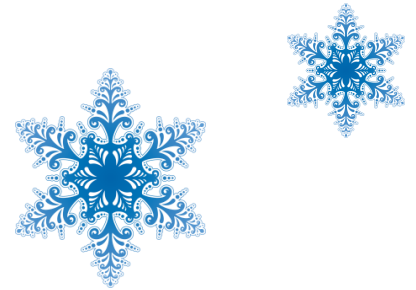
See you soon, Becky Thomas

Jo Daviess

Holiday Greetings from Jo Daviess County-



Even with the pandemic slowing down, our interaction with each other has allowed our units to be busy with activities, from making book bags filled with books for pre-school students, to recognizing our hard-working school employees. We will be able to meet as a whole county soon. Sending the best wishes of the seasons to all. We have also been busy celebrating the people who are members of our units, from Marilyn Wurster and her family, as they celebrate 150 Years on their farm, to Janette Bader, who is celebrating her 95th birthday this year! The Meridian Unit will donate over 40 pounds of pop tops to McDonalds for the Ronald McDonald houses. We also had a Tri-County meeting with Carroll and Stephenson Counties to go over our goals and plans. We hope to be able to schedule a social event for all our units and members soon.



Mercer

Mercer County Home and Community Education celebrated HCE week at the Aledo Fire Protection District building on Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, with an international program featuring Ontario, Canada. Illinois Association of Home and Community Education studies a foreign country each year as a segment of their goal to broaden the scope of each member's perspective of the world. A country is chosen from a different continent each year. North America was chosen for 2021, even though we have only three countries. Because Canada is subdivided into provinces and territories, in today's world, each province is quite diverse and offers a great deal to study. Ontario was then chosen for several reasons. Because Ontario is extremely large, it offers a multitude of topics to study.

First and foremost, the largest city, Toronto, and the capital, Ottawa, are located in Ontario. Ontario's border with the United States is 1,715 miles long and shares coastlines along each of the Great Lakes, excluding Lake Michigan. One of the great wonders of the world is within our reach and is most awesome when viewed along the Canadian border. Niagara Falls is stunning and if you ever have the chance while traveling to and/or through New York, try crossing the border into Canada to view the falls; the view from Canada is most amazing! Dustin Joy was chosen to be our speaker because he has a vast knowledge of Canada and had many wonderful experiences throughout his youth and adulthood traveling through Canada. He and his family had vacationed in Ontario since his Grandfather Guy Joy began his trek to a lodge at Lake of the Woods in northern Ontario in the 1960s.

The family has then vacationed at this lodge every year since then, except for the past two years due to COVID-19. Being an airline pilot for 25 years, Dustin has flown into Canada numerous times. His flights often took him to Toronto or Ottawa offering him much to study and new to learn. Dusty described the government, the taxing issues, medical advantages, and the vast geographical expanse of Ontario, even the effects of glaciation during the last Ice Age. One interesting fact about Canada is that the majority of the population of this country lives within 200 miles of the border with the United States. Another interesting fact is that much of the terrain of Ontario is not as livable as is the United States. The glaciers of thousands of years ago changed the geography of the region, making it difficult for planting crops or for vegetation to grow. The growth of vegetation that can be seen is often growing on bare rock because the soil was simply stripped away by layers of ice. If you were not at our celebration, you missed the opportunity to learn new or relearn the many facts about Ontario, Canada!

Rock Island

Happy Halloween!! When typing our county's article, Halloween is only a few days away. I hope you all had a Happy Halloween and the enjoyment of seeing kids in their costumes. The Rock Island County Board has been busy during the summer planning and working on our 100th Anniversary Celebration. We had a very enjoyable day. Each unit created a display of items and events that had covered their unit or just the last 100 years. It was amazing what items we had from the past as historical pictures and articles were available.



The Rock Island County Historical Society was an asset. Our IAHCE President, Angela Hicks, District 1 Director, Becky Thomas, and past state International Director, Cara Ausmus, presented a welcoming speech. Kristen Bogdonas represented the Extension Office with a greeting to all and talked about our working relationship. We had four 50-year members in attendance. The Extension office worked with Nancy Edlund creating a booklet covering HCE, Extension and Rock Island County over the last 100 years. What a fantastic and creative book depicting our history. The books were handed out to each attendee. Also, a member quilted 100 lap robes that were tied by unit members and donated to the area nursing homes. Cultural Arts Day was held October 9th. We had six entries this year. The Riverdale HCE Unit presented a style show that each garment modeled was a "play on words"....pin striped suit, box jacket, etc. The style show topped off a fun day. The event ended with a salad luncheon. Now we are planning events and fundraisers for the rest of our program year.



Have Fun – Stay Safe!



Stephenson

GREETINGS FROM STEPHENSON COUNTY! I hope you all had a great fall and wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

The Stephenson County Fair was held in Freeport from July 27-31. We had a designated area for HCE in the home economics building, along with seating for fairgoers. We were able to set up displays about HCE and copies of past lessons and information on our organization was available. About three to four times per day, someone from HCE presented a craft, activity or game to entertain and engage fair visitors.



The 97th Annual Meeting of the Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education was held on Monday, October 11, at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. During the business meeting, District 1 Director, Becky Thomas, installed the 2022 SCAHCE board members.

Membership awards were given out for years of service. Two recipients have been members for 65 years; Audrey Musser and Shirley Goeke. Certificates of Recognition for 2020 were presented to our members through the IAHCE Certified Volunteer Hour Program. In a special category set up to recognize HCE individuals who sewed and donated Covid 19 masks, Marilyn Thoren, Mock Orange Unit, received a certificate for the most hours (280) in all of District 1. Lynn Lott, Pearl City Unit, conducted the memorial service for members who had passed away since our last annual meeting. Many members shared memories of their friends.

This year, our international meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Our International Director, Judy Shippee, had set up a two-part program on the country of Honduras. Sharon Mockridge, who retired from Freeport Health Network, spoke on making dresses from pillowcases for little girls in Honduras, as well as Nigeria. She has also expanded into making an easy to sew shirt for little boys. She displayed several dresses and shirts. All the clothing is donated and then distributed through missionaries.

The second part of our program was given by Anita Evans, a nurse. She spoke about her mission trip to Honduras with other medical professionals. A clinic with several different treatment areas was set up for patients. The people had access to medical, as well as eye and dental care. We have nine HCE units in Stephenson County and, I believe, most are back to in-person meetings. Hopefully, things will keep heading in the right direction as we continue to work our way through this pandemic.



Warren

WCHCE annual and international meetings were combined and held October 21st with desserts from Canada. Our guest speaker was Ronda Brady, AKA “The Butterfly Lady”, who spoke on the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Twenty-three members attended and two guests. Diane Carlson, International Chairman, talked about the desserts served. Diane Fedorow read the annual report. Jo Ann Nelson presented the membership recognition. Lois Brechbiel did a memorial for members that had passed the last two years and Barbra Patterson installed the 2022 board members. The budget was also adopted for 2022. Barbra Patterson, secretary, presented the installation of officers for 2022. Diane Fedorow passed out butterflies to the officers.



On October 29 WCHCE co-hosted a Halloween party for Warren Achievement Center residents with disabilities. We had dropped off 40 small white pumpkins donated by Martha Livingston. Due to COVID restrictions, Diane Fedorow delivered 16 pizzas and desserts for lunch. Halloween bags were filled with pencils, note pads, stickers, and finger puppets by board members.



The residents decorated the pumpkins and Diane handed out ribbons for the contest. They also had a pinata, a DJ and dancing under twinkly lights. Everyone had a great time.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Dugan



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker



Greetings to all of you. I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall weather and all the fall activities. I want to thank you for all the wonderful meetings that I have been able to attend and all the wonderful ladies in each of the county units. Keep up the amazing work and spreading the word about HCE and all the things you do all year long. You may be surprised at who is listening and want to join so be prepared with contest information.

Please don't forget all your reports need to be in by the due dates. Call if you have questions. I hope each of you finds time to sit back and sip a cup of apple cider and ponder the saying “Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go”. I hope you each have a blessed Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday.



DuPage

It was a beautiful day at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve when our HCE members gathered for fun and friendship. The game of ring toss was the highlight of the day. Members also enjoyed the monthly luncheon at local restaurants and the local leader lessons were given. Kits were given out for “Thinking of You” cards for Vets, to the units to do at their meetings. Members of the DuPage County HCE Board attended the District 2 Workshop in Sycamore in August. We are studying Canada with information, puzzles, and recipes provided by our International Director, Margo S.

Kane

Kane County was pleased to have representation at the District 1 and 2 meeting with 10 of the county board members in attendance. Awards for Family and Community Involvement for the “Luggage of Love” activity were gratefully received. Informational packets have been distributed not only to county board members, but also to all units in hopes that changes and messages from the state reach every member.

Five Board members attended the Illinois Homemakers Camp, October 8-11 at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello. All enjoyed the many classes offered, the fine menus and activities. Three members were “newbies” and quickly adapted to time schedules and activities. Ann Rempfer taught classes in hand stitched flowers and nature’s pollinator. A real treat was the wagon ride to Robert Allerton State Park. Amazing was the number of ladies with sewing machines and quilting projects. Naomi Redman encourages anyone who has not investigated attending to go on the website and see all that is offered, - illinoishomemakerscamp.com.



Kane County Annual Fun Day and Fine Arts Show was held during HCE week at the Aurora Advent Christian Church. Junia Epperson was chairperson arranging location, room set up and time. Naomi Redman selected the caterer who provided a delicious fried chicken luncheon. Joan Rossi guided the exhibits and selection of eight items to be entered at the state contest in March. Pat Kowalkowski and Ann Rempfer conducted the highlight of the day with the fund raiser - “The Purse Raffle.” New and gently used purses were filled with a pound of “something.” There was NO PEEKING allowed and bidding was very lively and profitable.

Members are eager to start the study of Italy. Several have stories of their visits to that country, some many years ago and others more recently (prior to pandemic time). Others described finishing up the study of Canada. The foods were just a little different, but not substantially so. Every unit in the county handled the past year just a little differently and we were unable to do a county wide day of the study.

Cultural Enrichment Director, Joan Rossi, organized a shop and lunch tour at More Polish Pottery in Big Rock. Polish pottery is designed to mix and match in a collection of everyday serving and bakeware pieces. Rebeca Gengler, owner of the 10-year-old establishment, gave a review of the business. They feature one of the largest selections in the USA that can be purchased in store, on the website or the More Polish Pottery app that can be downloaded on your phone. Rebecca is quoted “We have appreciated all the support as we weathered personal illness and the pandemic. We turned our difficult times into raising money for many not-for-profits and created awareness for many rare childhood diseases and breast cancer research. Following the tour and many purchases, the group proceeded to Plano and enjoyed an authentic Polish meal at the Ivana’s Cafe’.



Issues currently in progress are saving on postage by issuing the “Raising’ Kane” newsletter online. The membership chairman, Joan Ziethen, and newsletter editor, Ann Rempfer, have been working diligently with the Extension Office to complete the effort. All Units are winding up the Friendship Projects Fund donations. Recycling continues with some items discontinued and others added. Members were notified and attendance volunteers requested for the 2022 lesson schedule for Kane County.

It’s a busy time and Kane County wishes all a blessed and happy holiday season.

Nancy Haire



Kankakee

The ladies in Kankakee are getting back to doing all of our projects; making Autism blankets, adult food protectors, coasters for area nursing homes, and many other things. We have held meetings in local parks and in the extension office. May found us having our annual meeting and installation of officers for 2021-2022 at Lits Park. On October 13th, we held our fall tea and white elephant raffle. We are getting ready for our international luncheon on Canada, November 11th, at Limestone Park. We are now working on programs for the coming year, like lessons, speakers, and ideas to get new members and old and new projects. We lost one of our members in August: May Noble, who was very active in sewing, crocheting, quilting, and many other things also. As I write this, we lost another member: Betty Jo Baker was a 60 year member. These two ladies will be missed greatly. We are looking forward to the New Year and amazing things to come. The IAHCE conference in March will allow us to see old friends and new ones and also allow us to learn new ideas and to share.

Happy Holidays all!



Lake

Hello from Lake County. After such a dry summer, our fall colors are taking longer to develop. I heard on one of our farm reports that the colors in southern Illinois are more brilliant than those we can expect to see here. This is because the soil in southern Illinois is more like that of the northeastern states, which are known for the fabulous fall foliage.

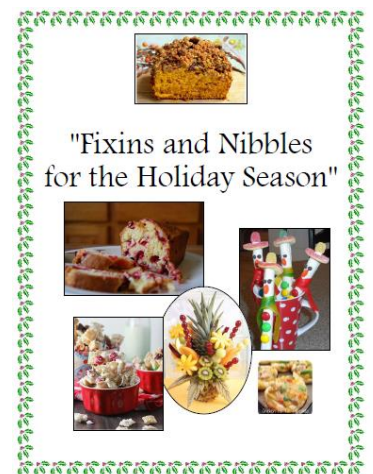
We attended the IAHCE District 2 Meeting in Sycamore on August 12. It was great to participate in an “in person” meeting again and to see our fellow HCE members from other counties

We held our “**Welcome Back for S’More HCE**” picnic on August 26 at a local park. Attendees were asked to bring lunch and any beverage they wanted if water was not enough. To get the party started, bottles of Bubbles were handed out to everyone.

Jane Ellen Keroson started an “ice breaker” name game to get everyone to introduce themselves. A local restaurant chain known for their frozen custard donated several flavors to the picnic. Sandy Henke and Jane Ellen Keroson waited patiently to serve us as we made our choices.

The highlight of the picnic was Bingo with door prizes for all participants. This picnic went so well, we are planning another one next year.

We are electing to keep in touch with our members when we can by holding some lessons in person instead of using the online option. September was still nice enough to hold the lesson “Healthy Behaviors for a Healthy Immune System” outside. Those who attended took this lesson back to their units for the October unit lesson.



International Director, Jane Ellen Keroson, hosted our International Day Event on Saturday, October 2. Attendees were treated to a tasting menu of Canadian food, saw a very interesting video about Canada, and shared adventures they had experienced in the various provinces.

We celebrated HCE month by presenting the lesson “Fixins and Nibbles for the Holiday Season”, which is on the IAHCE.org website under the Culinary section of the Lessons / Projects link. Our Family & Community Issues Director, Ann Drevalas, hosted this event on October 15. Ann, Sandy Henke, Carmella Marshall, and Pat Weitzmann prepared recipes from the pamphlet shown below. They gave insights on how the dishes were made, let us in on their kitchen “secrets”, and provided samples for us to try.

Stay well and be safe until next time.

Candace Keegan



LaSalle

Thirty members and guests attended the 103rd Annual Meeting, November 4, 2021. It was held at the University of Illinois Extension Teaching Kitchen in LaSalle, IL. The day began with members entering the Cultural Arts Contest and participating in making paper crafts for the upcoming holidays. Delicious breads and coffee cakes were offered during the crafting session. A highlight of the day was the long overdue awarding of the 2020 Homemaker of the Year Award. Donna Virgo, of the Seneca Morning Unit, was totally surprised when she was announced as the awardee, and even more surprised when her family appeared. Donna has been a long-time member of HCE and has held an office in her unit for many years. She is very active in volunteer and leadership activities in church and community in Seneca IL. Due to COVID restrictions, a box lunch was served followed by an impressive program presented by Terry Johnson of Illinois Valley Quilts of Valor. The business meeting and a memorial service ended the day. A collection of \$107.36 was collected from the 30 attendees for the Friendship Projects Fund. We are looking forward to a more active year since the majority of our membership is now COVID vaccinated.

Livingston

Hello everyone from Livingstone County H.C.E. Our board meeting was held on Monday Oct. 18-21 at the extension office in Pontiac. President Arlene called the meeting to order with 8 board members present. We were informed that the Friendship Project Funds was due on Nov. 21. At the District meeting, President Arlene won a one-year subscription to the I.A.H.C.E. Chronicle. We celebrated Oct. 11-Oct 15, H.C.E. Week. We shared H.C.E. news with others and had the following themed days: “Be Kind to Animals Day”, tasks we’ve been putting off, share joy with someone today, and enjoy a chocolate treat today. We discussed having lessons on Fiesta Ware. Some people showed off their collectables and we had a lesson on lemons. The State H.C.E will be celebrating 100 years in 2024. We talked about getting favorite recipes from past county cook books, and making a new one to sell for a county fundraiser. Also, we would like to visit farms and learn more about the program C.S.A which stands for Community Support Agriculture. They are located in our surrounding areas. To wrap the meeting up, all units are to ask the question, “Do we charge dues for members who have 50 years?” and report back on the votes. On Oct.21-25 three units met at the extension office for a combined meeting, and 32 members were present. Our program was given by Pam Bork, Chaplin General D.A.R. of U.S.A. She is one of twelve National Officers. She gave a wonderful slide show on the leading Ladies of Illinois. After the presentation we had a dessert and drinks. Our own groups met and then we were all adjourned. Since this is the last newsletter for the year 2021, Livingston County H.C.E. wants to wish everyone a safe Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sincerely,
Lucille Wiechmann



McLean

Greetings from McLean County! Fall is here and the trees are beginning to turn on their beautiful autumn colors. McLean County units have enjoyed learning about “Biscuits: Now and Then & Sourdough Bread”, “Five Flavors – How Your Palate Changes” and “How to Save on Travel”. Meeting in person about such interesting subjects is so rewarding. The Community Service Days produced many Santa stockings when they met in September, and Christmas stockings for seniors and soldiers in October and November. We are still collecting stocking stuffer items to mail to soldiers. For Family Issues/Community Outreach, members contributed toiletry items for Fostering Dignity backpacks. In September, members met for Read and Share: *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. October members discussed the book *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.



Twenty-one attendees on a fall trip to Conklin’s Barn III at Goodfield enjoyed the play, “Is There Life After Fifty?” For cultural enrichment in September, we attended a class on “Chalk Paint Jars” and had 10 participants. The October experience was a drive to Gridley, IL to Lifesong for Orphans and Gobena Coffee, a support business for Lifesong. Twenty-three members and guests attended. Lunch was at Common Ground and shopping at the Spare and Share Thrift Shop followed. All 4 places have websites to learn more.



McLean County HCE participated in the Bloomington Farmers Market September and October with bake sales. Towanda’s “Old Rugged Barn” events are also supported with baked goods by McLean County HCE. The sales earn money for our scholarship fund and our other community service projects. Country Women’s Council USA was held in Effingham on September 14th and was attended by 3 McLean County members.

Twenty-eight McLean County HCE members looked forward to International Day in October. They were delighted to learn about the Canadian province Ontario from two of our own, Paula Miller and Karen Crull, who have traveled there on business around 50 times. Goody bags prepared by the committee of Nancy Erickson and Diana Jones were quite the treat including Ketchup Potato Chips and Canadian Butter Tarts. Each month this year’s minor lessons so far have explored Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

Many attended the McLean HCE Attic Treasures Sale on Saturday, October 30, 2021, 8am – 2pm, at the Interstate Center, Bloomington. Shoppers purchased many “treasures” that filled 90+ tables. There was a remarkable variety of items available for sale.

November found members at a “Cookie/Candy Exchange” for cultural enrichment. Local leaders will visit Bloomington Spice Works to prepare the January lesson on “From Agar to Za’atar”.

In December units may or may not meet individually. The McLean County HCE Christmas Party will occur at the Chateau Bloomington Hotel and Conference Center on December 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to enjoy lunch, make it-take it projects, bingo and musical entertainment.

For current updated information and more details, visit our media sites- **Website: www.mcleanhce.org and LIKE our Facebook page at: McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.**

See you in McLean County! Come Visit!
Barb Jurgens



Will

After a long hiatus due to Covid, the Will County HCE is up and running again. Since my August newsletter article, the WCHCE has held two county-wide meetings. It is always so great to see friends come together once again.



Our Annual Meeting was finally held on August 3rd, after two postponements. The Board covered much material, going back to our last meeting in October 2019. Gail Shaw, president, welcomed everyone back and announced that the motto for this year is “To Grow is to Change, To Change is to Become!” She explained the new push, by the state for every county to increase its membership by one hundred. Quite a challenge, but we will do our best!

Elaine Czajkoski, Family and Community Issues Chairman, explained our newest community project, *St. Joseph’s Closet*. Elaine asked members to help supply the St. Joseph’s Hospital “Closet,” with items for the homeless, such as socks, gloves, toiletries, etc. The homeless have been gathering at the facility since the Pandemic began. A collection will be held at the October CA Event.



Mary Barrett asked for volunteers for the November 13th-14th *Joliet Witches Night Out* benefit. The *Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community* has been printing our newsletter and is one of the recipient agencies receiving funds from this event this year. Our helping out is also a way of paying back. Also, copies of our proposed bylaws, which will be voted upon at the October meeting, were presented and distributed to the membership. Mary Barrett and Gail Shaw explained the need for the changes made in this new document. Carolyn Yoemans, First VP, announced that Nancy Kuhajda, Master Gardener, affiliated with the U of I Extension Service, will be our speaker for the October meeting.

Carolyn also asked members to bring an antique to share at this meeting. Our 2021-23 WCHCE Board, including our newest Board Member, CVH Chairman, Tina Benson, was elected and installed by Rita Overacker, District 2 Director. After a lovely lunch catered by Bella Cucina in Joliet, the members played Bingo for restaurant gift certificates.



On October 12th, the *WCHCE Cultural Arts Event*, was held. President Gail Shaw announced that an Advisory Board Meeting will be held in November. All Unit Presidents and Board Members are urged to attend this meeting which includes developing a calendar for U of I Extension classes. Members unanimously approved and adopted the new bylaws and standing rules. Elaine Czajkoski, Family and Community Issues Chairman, collected many items for the homeless for St. Joseph’s Closet. Mary Barrett, Carolyn Yoemans, and LouAnn Kinsella volunteered to help at the Joliet Witches Night Out. Andrea Zoelle, International Chairman, announced that our 2022 country of study will be Italy. Nancy Kuhajda, Master Gardener, with the U of I Extension Service, was introduced by Carolyn Yoemans. Nancy spoke on “Brightening up your Gardens for Fall,” and offered many tips about readying our yards for the long, chilly winter ahead. After lunch, Andrea Zoelle, acting CA Chairman, announced

that we have one entry for the IAHCE Cultural Arts contest in March. *Karen Murino*, of the Manhattanettes Unit, presented four beautiful paintings, each depicting a different season of the year.

At our August Annual Meeting, Carolyn asked that everyone hunt through their treasures for antique items to share at this meeting. Members brought many unique and interesting items to share. Many expressed wanting to bring antiques again when we meet. It is always a great feeling being a part of a community of women, having similar interests and values. Times have changed, however: some things are better; some things, not so. During the past two years, we have all learned a great deal about ourselves: our strengths, resiliency, and especially the meaning of family and friendship. Let’s really try to make the most of our remaining lifetimes. We have all learned from this experience that life is so precious.



Mary Barrett



DISTRICT 3 NEWS

I love the connections I make with IAHCE. Being a district director, I have the opportunity to visit my counties once a year and I got to visit in person this year! YEAH! I have been to annual meetings in parks, restaurants, churches and in a few extension offices. It has been wonderful re-connecting with everyone!



All my counties have been still struggling to plan events and everyone is frustrated. If your county has not been able to utilize your extension office fully and it has caused difficulties, please email IAHCE President Angela Hicks and let her know what you've been facing. We are working with our extension liaison to see if solutions to these difficulties can be found.

I have heard in virtually all my counties that they are struggling to attract new members and get current members to "step up" to leadership positions. These challenges have been weighing heavy on my heart, especially during this pandemic. How can I best help our membership face these challenges? The current IAHCE 2nd Vice President will complete her term in March. I have made the decision to apply for this position.

I will be resigning as the IAHCE District 3 Director prior to the business meeting at our annual conference in March. I have loved being a district director and have valued the time spent with each and every one of my counties, but I feel in my heart it is time for me to accept a new challenge. On that note, I need to find a replacement for the District 3 Director position. I am certain that one of you reading this is feeling called to step into that roll. Being a District Director is an amazing position on the state board. If you have questions about what the position involves please give me a call at 217-553-5256 or email me at rsqmom2@gmail.com. I know at least one of you is feeling that tug in your heart that this is what you are supposed to do. Please follow your heart!

Annual Conference – March 15-17, 2022 in Effingham is going to be epic! Make your reservations now and plan to attend. I can't wait to see you all!!

Mary Johnson



Champaign

Champaign County had their Fun Day on August 25th. It was a fun day of playing several types of games with the most popular game being Mexican Train dominos. Each person attending brought their favorite snack for the day. Our 103rd Annual meeting was held on September 22nd at Faith United Methodist Church. The meeting was very well attended with 61 in attendance. Our guest speaker was Jane Chapman, past president of IAHCE, demonstrating her famous "Biscuits Then and Now". It was a fun and tasty demonstration enjoyed by all.

Also attending our meeting was Angela Hicks, IAHCE newly elected president, Mary Johnson, District 3 director, Janel Kassing, Sonya Bishop, Carol Harms, and Ashley Davis, IAHCE board members, who accompanied Jane and also helped with the demonstration. Ginger Boas, University of Illinois Extension Director for Champaign County was a guest. We recognized our 50 year members for 2020 and 2021. Those recognized were Joyce Smith, Pam Franzen & Linda Flessner from Mayview Unit; Rosetta Suits of Penfield Unit, Vickie Goodman, an At-Large member, and Kathryn Kelly of Philo Unit.



Book Club members at September meeting

Members and Units received recognition for their volunteer hours for 2020 and our county received several volunteer awards for 2020. Mary Ann Rinkenberger of Philo Unit was awarded a certificate for her volunteer hours making 2,091 Covid-19 masks for Carle Hospital.

Champaign County announced the recipients that received the county's first time educational scholarships. Jake Jurgens from Chatham, IL, is attending ISU and Toby Fountain of Champaign, IL, is attending Parkland College. Mary Johnson installed the 2022 CCHCE board members. Lunch was a delicious, boxed lunch from Holly's Kitchen in Monticello, IL. We had a 50/50 drawing with monies being donated to Champaign County Foster Children program.



2022 CCHCE Board: Back Linda Holzhausen, Cultural Enrichment; Karen Moon, 2nd VP, Bonnie Compton, Family & Community Issues; Lynn Trotter, Volunteer Hrs. Chrm.; Front: Marge Probasco, International; Melissa Chitwood, Treasurer; Bobbi McEntire, 1st VP; and Carol Froeschl, President.

Our book club discussion meetings have been very well attended. They have been meeting for breakfast followed by a lively discussion of the present book being read, *Resistance Women* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Our next event is our 6th Annual Holiday Trees & Craft Sale on November 5th and 6th at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. On November 15th is our International Luncheon with guest speaker Janel Kassing, IAHCE International Director. Entertainment will be Logan Kirby, a popular area entertainer.

Carol Froeschl



Edgar

4-H had a limited county fair once again; therefore, we were able to have our food stand which is our only fundraiser of the year. We had to make some adjustments as not as many people were there all day like past years. It was successful and we had support from some non-members which was good.

The mayor of Paris, Illinois gave us a proclamation declaring October 10-16 as HCE Week. On Tuesday, October 12th we had International Night on the country of Canada. Our speaker was Elaine Good of Paris who was born and raised in Canada. She has dual citizenship in the US and Canada. Members prepared dishes of Canadian food to sample. It was a very informative and interesting presentation. We also had the Cultural Enrichment Show on display for members to vote on items to send to the State Conference.

On Thursday, October 14th, we sponsored Women Walk the World for one hour and then we had a game night. Board members brought various games to play. Groups were formed and chose the game that they wanted to play. Board members brought various snack foods to enjoy as we played. It was a fun evening and many of us learned some new games. We plan to repeat our game night after the first of the year and hope to gain new members from this.

Marge Houghland



Macon

Macon County has been very busy these past few months. Two of our members, Mary Ann Platt and Cheryl Sample, presented several new ways to use up material scraps. Our members learned how to do the string piecing quilt technique, jelly roll quilting, and crumb block quilting. This was a great lesson and the attendees said that they learned so much and had a great time!



Several of our members were able to help with the Farm Progress Show this year. The money that they earned was placed in our scholarship fund.

International Day was a very successful event. It was held in our Macon County Extension Illini and Clover rooms. Our International Day is a Tri-County event. (Macon, Dewitt, Piatt counties) This year Dewitt County was in charge of the program. Chef Tucker and the Richland Culinary students provided the ingredients for Shepherd's Pie.

We were very privileged to have Vanessa VanZant, a professional chef and daughter of our member Lois Miller, present a delectable lesson about apple strudel. She also told us quite a bit about Vienna, Austria, where she is a chef and teaches cooking classes. The apple strudel just melted in your mouth!

HCE Week was as wonderful as ever! Don Chamberlain gave us a visual presentation of travelers in the 1800's as they followed the various trails to the West. Our own Karen Halicki presented an enlightening program about the many uses of feed sacks. Farmers used them to get their animal feed in, plus flour, sugar, salt, etc. The women used them to make clothing, curtains and other items. Our President, Bonnie Lanham, told us about the evolution of aprons. There were many different kinds of aprons—cooking, cleaning, and guest aprons. Many of our members brought their favorite aprons. Our final event for HCE week was our member Pam Walker's delicious presentation of making the most delectable cinnamon rolls on the planet. Of course, we all got to sample her creation and they were wonderful!

Our upcoming programs for the remainder of this year are "Lincoln in Illinois" and "Medical Identity Theft". The County Board will be meeting in November to assemble the program books for 2022. We continue to make our pillowcases for the various organizations in our area.

Our Fall Meeting was on October 27 in the Illini room at the Macon County Extension office. IAHCE President Angela Hicks and District 3 Director Mary Johnson spoke to us about ways to increase membership. They mentioned using a phone tree to keep in touch with current members as well as keeping in touch with prospective members. The Chinese auction raised \$94.00 and the craft sale profits were up by quite a bit from past years. Eight items were chosen to take to the state convention. The delicious meal was catered by Chef Tucker and his Richland Community culinary class.



Linda Austin



Piatt

Piatt County AHCE is carefully reactivating their face-to-face meetings. The Macon County AHCE units reserved the lunch catering team. The Piatt County AHCE units prepared the table decorations. DeWitt County AHCE member Jean Brady, a former resident of Ontario, presented an informative slide program that covered many aspects of living in Ontario. The study of Ontario, Canada concluded with the presentation of a lunch styled after a menu that would be traditionally eaten in Ontario. The main items on this menu were a deconstructed Shephard's Pie, a traditional Canadian salad, and a chocolate brownie desert. All of this delicious food was researched, presented, and prepared by the students of Richland Community College teacher, Chef Tucker.

October 11-16, 2021

Five of our Piatt County AHCE members (Carolyn Kleven, Carol Drayton, Martha Lynch, Nancy Carle, and Kathleen Glenn) attended the Illinois Homemakers Camp located in Allerton Park 4-H Camp. These five members shared their skills of knitting and crocheting with other crafters at this camp by teaching classes and tutoring individuals concerning personal projects. They also had a great time!



Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Joyce Boeringer took time out to demonstrate how to make delicious pie dough using the *paste method*. This evening meeting was open to the public and that included both the 4-H membership and leadership from the local 4-H units. Yes, we had interested visitors show up for this meeting.

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

The Piatt County AHCE Annual Meeting was held, starting at 9:30 am, at the Cisco United Methodist Church. One of the important functions of this annual meeting is to install the new officers for the year 2022. Mary Johnson, the District 3 Director, visited our annual meeting to complete the installation of these officers.



After our regular business was completed, we enjoyed the program, “Learn More about Mari-Mann Herbs,” presented by Liz King. Following this presentation, we enjoyed a box lunch. Needless to say, it was delicious, and it was a delightful way to bring this annual meeting to an end! *Good Food! Good Friends! Good Conversations!*

Thursday, October 14, 2021

The final activity of this AHCE Week was a skype lesson at the Extension Office on “How to Save on Travel” presented by Kathy Swedler (Consumer Economics Educator for Illinois Extension).

Reorganization of AHCE units

We have 55 members in Piatt County AHCE. As numbers have decreased, so has the number of people in our 4 units. The AHCE board decided to reduce our units from 4 to 2 in 2022. Cerro Gordo will remain the same, but Cisco, Monticello, and Voorhies will combine and be called the CMV unit. This will allow each unit to have enough members to elect officers and do business month to month more easily.

Although we did not get to do all the things that we planned for this year due to needed cancellations, **we ended up strong!!**

**YES, WE WILL BE BACK!!!
WE HAVE ACTIVE PLANS FOR 2022!!
SEE YOU THEN!**



Tazewell

Several of our officers were happy to attend the August district meeting held in Springfield. It is always good to visit with “old friends” and to learn all the exciting things that are happening with HCE. This summer we were saddened by the retirement of our extension secretary, Sheila Bolliger. She was so good to our HCE. Along with her greeting everyone with her friendly smile, she typed and printed our monthly newsletter, typed and put our program books together, printed address labels, made copies of lessons, stayed late when we had evening events, and performed many other numerous acts of kindnesses. We were happy to present her with her retirement gift of a floral and cash bouquet. We were looking forward to our International Day luncheon, but due to COVID concerns we had to cancel. Our September newsletter contained information about Canada and Canadian recipes. We hope that individuals and units will use the materials provided to learn about our neighbors to the north. In early October three of our members attended the Homemakers Craft Camp held at 4-H Memorial Camp near Monticello, Illinois. They reported a relaxing weekend, learning new crafts, and renewing of friendships.



Merry Christmas to all! We hope to see you at state conference in March!

Darlene Curry



Vermilion

Hello to all our IAHCE Members!



I'm happy to read in the IAHCE Chronicle that Illinois Association for Home & Community is having events and gatherings. Vermilion County hasn't opened our unit meetings as of this publication. I know we all know what we are to do to stay safe! That is all I'm going to say about that!

Our publication for Vermilion County, "Splinters From the Board", informed members about reporting volunteer hours. Remember, it is time to pay our dues to our county treasurer. A copy of the IAHCE board invitation to the 2022 conference was included in the newsletter to members.

Vermilion County HCE 1st Vice / Program Chairman Pat Bailey presented the 2022 lessons that were prepared by The U of I Educators. Lessons will be presented by webinar and members will receive by mail the information about lessons.

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021, fourteen members and guests attended Vermilion County International Luncheon at East Park Church of Christ, Danville, Illinois. Canada is the Country of Interest for 2021 for the IAHCE.

Dorothea Honn was the guest speaker about Canada. She told of growing up in Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada. After high school, Dorothea went to college in Goshen, Indiana. Dorothea was a nurse and hospital chaplain for many years. Thank You Dorothea Honn for presenting Canada to Vermilion County HCE Members!

We enjoyed lots of great food and it was wonderful to have a VCHCE get together!!



Vermilion County HCE wishes all a very happy and safe holiday season that is approaching!

Diane Reddy



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

The inaugural District 4 Mini Meeting was held on October 26th at the Golden Circle in Vandalia with 36 members attending, representing 7 counties. What a great beginning with sunny weather, terrific attendance, awesome refreshments, and decorations. Thank you, Fayette County for hosting. It was amazing. We started the meeting by introducing ourselves with what county/unit office we held, the number of years we have been in HCE, and why did we join HCE? The consensus was that most of us had been invited by a loved one, a friend, or an acquaintance. We then delved into the current District newsletter going paragraph by paragraph, addressing issues and questions as we went through it. During time of sharing, the counties had a lot of great ideas and mentioned activities that they have done or were going to be doing with Cultural Enrichment and Family/Community Issues.



I have been able to do installation of officers in Richland, Clinton, and Crawford counties over the last few months. What a wonderful opportunity it has given me to visit these counties and get to know their members. I am learning more about their counties. I look forward to visiting all District 4 counties during the next few years. When you would like to schedule my visit to any of your activities or your annual meeting, please contact me by calling or texting 618-554-1790 or email me at dsrichards001@hotmail.com.

Thank you everyone,



Donna Richards

Clinton

Clinton County finally got to hold their 75th annual meeting. This was a special event in a special place, decorated and with a catered meal. In attendance was the state president, Angela Hicks and Donna Richards, District 4 director, plus past HCE advisor Lois Smith. Florence Pingsterhaus and Lucille Stein were recognized as 60-year members! Also recognized was Elvira “Toots” Tebbe, a 58-year member, and Dorothy Zinn, for 48 years.



The meal served was a replica of what was served for years at the Homemakers Craft Camp. Also displayed were crafts made throughout the 75 years by members. Stories were told, activities were discussed, and a great time was held. It was worth the wait to hold this meeting.

Karen Voss



Crawford

Crawford County HCE was excited to have Donna Richards (District 4 Director) attend their Annual Meeting and Luncheon. She spoke and visited with the 19 members in attendance. Donna Richards installed the 2022 HCE Officers. Several programs and events were planned throughout HCE Week in Crawford County. One program titled “Cooking for One or Two” was presented by MaryLiz Wright, Nutrition & Wellness Educator. A mailbox member, Rita Garrard, helped donate plastic caps to our bench program. Crawford County HCE collects plastic lids and caps to recycle into “all-weather plastic benches” to be placed around the community.



Effingham

You think Effingham County members haven’t been busy? Well, just check out the picture. Boxes of Christmas stockings, catheter bags, dining scarves, cancer caps and bookmarks were made and donated for veterans, nursing homes and hospitals. Elsie Voelker, Nancy Hoene, far left, and Marilyn Schaefer and Ruth Abell, far right, Effingham County HCE board members, are pictured with Chuck and Debbie Meyer and Nancy Meyer from the VFW Auxiliary. Lots of Volunteer Hours here!

COVID changed several plans for activities and programs. With an increase in numbers of persons either with or exposed to the virus, units continue to do their own thing and the board has put the planned county-wide events on hold until 2022. Meanwhile, members are building their Volunteer Hours doing their service projects at home or out in the community in safe environments.



Effingham County is looking forward to IAHCE Annual Conference 2022 at the Keller Convention Center again. See you there in March.

Pat Hildebrand

Fayette

Fayette County HCE Week Tradition

As a tradition for Fayette County Home Community Education, we celebrate HCE week with giving a basket of baby items and gift cards to the mothers of the first baby born within HCE Week. This year, our Family/Community Issues Officer, Donna Blair, got the pleasure to deliver the basket full of goodies to Josie Hall of Fayette County and her precious baby boy Maverick. Maverick was born October 5, 2021 at 12:37 a.m. Congratulations to momma and baby.



Riding off into the sunset:

As the year 2021 pushes through, FCAHCE remembers two Shining Stars of our organization. These two members have ridden off into the sunset and went home to their eternal home, but will forever be remembered, simply because they both left us with knowing we should strive to keep pushing through and stay faithful. They both will be missed greatly.

On June 23, 2021, we lost **Marilyn Magnus**, our first shining star. Marilyn was a 58-year member who served on the FCHCE County Board. She was a shining star that would light the darkest room with her smile. She was a member of the St Peter Unit where she shared her love for HCE alongside her daughter Glori. Just some fun facts about Marilyn; she was an avid reader, she collected items of “JOY”, and she was a member of several other groups and organizations in her community. Marilyn was the founding member of the St Peter area Cancer Support Group. She loved spending time with her family and friends as much as she loved to spread “JOY”. Marilyn was an absolute JOY to us in Fayette County HCE. One thing that is special is that we get to have a little bit of Marilyn’s JOY with us still, in her daughter Glori.

On September 8, 2021, our county is minus another shining star. **Anna Jean (AJ) Rhodes** was a faithful member to FCHCE for 72 years. She was the one that most knew as the lady in the wheelchair. She never allowed the chair to slow her down. Anna Jean served as our public relations officer for the past few years, but she reported our HCE news in the local papers and on the radio forever it seemed. AJ was a member of our St Elmo Unit and served in several positions in the unit. Just a few fun facts about Anna Jean Rhodes; she collected over 2,000 cookbooks and around 300 nativity scenes. I always found myself wanting to ask Anna Jean for advice on something but turn and she is no longer there. So now I say, “What would AJ do?” Anna Jean truly was a history book in herself. The memories and history she took with her is amazing.

On October 26, 2021, Fayette County hosted the 1st Mini District Workshop with our District 4 Director Donna Richards. We were happy to welcome members from all over District 4. The meeting was informative, and it was fun to fellowship with the other members. Thank you, Donna Richards for bringing the district 4 Workshop to our county. Fayette County welcomes you and all of District 4 counties back again in June of 2022.

The Fayette County Vandalia Day unit entered a float in the Vandalia annual Halloween parade on October 28, 2021. The parade was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid, so Vandalia Day Unit came back bigger and with a BIG CHANGE! The float was entered to spread the word about our county organization. The members handed out glow stick bracelets with a card saying “Be Kind & Be the Light” along with information on how to join FCHCE. Those riding and walking in the parade were Fayette County HCE President Ashley Davis, Vandalia Day Unit Chairman Debbie Segrest, Brenda Whipple, FCHCE Cultural Enrichment Officer Edith Runkel, FCHCE Secretary Joyce Mueller, Bingham/Ramsey Unit Chairman Donna Blair, and our future member Addilynne Jordon (Ashley’s granddaughter). A huge thank you to members Brenda Whipple and Megan Runkel for putting the float together and to Edith Runkel, Dana McCormick and Debbie Segrest for getting the items ready to hand out.



A Halloween Party/Sefton Unit Autumn

The Sefton HCE Unit held their annual HOBOW Stew in October. Member Panzi Blackwell wrote this little poem:

Autumn is a special season
Because Autumn holds Sefton Unit's HOBOW Stew Day
With no recipe, no planning
But each one brings canned vegetable to the pot,
And it always blends into a delicious HOBOW brew.
Autumn also ushers in the jolly Jack-o-Lanterns,
Friendlily little ghost and funny witches on a broom,
Halloween Black cats, bats, and spiders
Decorate our October meeting room.
All blends into flavors of the Autumn season.
As each of the ladies in Sefton Unit do,
Adding interest to the unit in each one's own precious ways
Blending flavors of personalities as with the HOBOW Stew.

Fayette County HCE's last event for 2021 will be an international night. Our St Peter Unit hosted the event on November 4, 2021, at the St Peter City Hall. There was a potluck meal served. The hall was decorated for fall. There were facts about Canada passed out and member Debbie Segrest spoke about her trips into Canada while on the semi with her husband Charlie. Debbie Segrest also brought Tim Horton's coffee from Canada to the event to let members taste.

From Fayette County we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ashley Davis



Macoupin

Merry Christmas to everyone!!! December is here and it is very hard to believe that in a few days 2021 will be behind us. Before the year is over, take time to enjoy this month and all the wonderful things it has to offer. Enjoy traditions that you have shared with your family for years and years and start some new traditions. Take time to create new memories that can be reflected upon in 2022 and beyond.

Large group meetings in Macoupin County have been limited. From time to time, Covid has been high in some areas and members have been very cautious. For the safety of our members, we chose to cancel our Founder's Day Celebration in October. It was very disappointing to everyone since we were not able to celebrate Macoupin County's H.C.E. 90th Anniversary. We also planned this last year which had to be cancelled. Some of the units have been meeting outside of their homes so they are able to social distance better. Many are meeting at church halls, restaurants, and bowling alleys. A large Carlinville Unit became creative and had their meeting outdoors with a wiener roast. That sounded like so much fun.



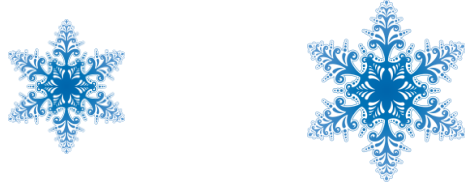
Our cultural arts chairperson, Vickie Laughlin, has been attempting to hold cultural arts activities. October 19th a small group met at the extension office for a fun time. Three crafts we enjoyed...a puzzle tree, a spiral bead tree, and they redesigned dollar tree pumpkins. For the redesigned pumpkins, the group used fabric, lace, twisted brown paper, and a disassembled rag rug.



Our first vice president, Carol Pollo, along with unit vice presidents met with Lisa Peterson, our Nutrition and Wellness Educator, to discuss lessons for 2022. The ladies have chosen some very interesting lessons for us next year. The lessons are: Empower Me to be Clutter Free: Do you find yourself bogged down by paper clutter?, The Humble Casserole, Cultivating Your Own Blue Zone, All About Cheese, Meal Kit Mayhem, Ways to Make Your Home Safer, The History of Ice Cream, Finding Your Get Up and Go, Happy Hacks for More Positivity and Improved Well-Being, and Dealing with Emergencies.

Although the county board hasn't been able to meet each month, we do stay connected via texting, emails, etc. The board has chosen to publish their newsletters 12 times this year to keep units abreast of what is happening. Each county chairperson includes not only necessary information but interesting information to enjoy (articles, recipes, poems, pictures, puzzles, etc.) Our extension secretary does a fantastic job putting together the newsletters, so they are inviting to everyone.

Happy New Year!!!
Carol Rimar



Madison

We had a busy fall starting with our first ever Children's tea in August. There were around 35 people in attendance. The children really enjoyed trying tea and dressing up in a photo booth we made. October brought our annual International Night. Roughly 90 members and guests were able to sample many Canadian foods and enjoy a Canadian program. The Sunday of HCE week, our Alhambra Leef Unit welcomed speaker Barbara Kay, who portrayed Dolley Madison. Those in attendance brought donations for the food pantry and were greeted with snacks and appetizers.



On that Wednesday. The Alhambra Leef unit also had a paint night in which they made round Thanksgiving turkey door hangers. This was the second painting class that the unit did. They offered a pumpkin themed class in October. Non-members got a free membership with the cost of their painting/supply fee. So far the unit has welcomed five new members with just two classes. Christmas painting classes are scheduled for November 10th and December 15th.

On November 4th, the county celebrated their annual fundraiser, Christmas in November. There were around 100 members and guests present. The evening began with a catered meal. Board member, Gloria Blechle, did a presentation on rag picking. She was also the auctioneer for our first live auction. The event also included raffle baskets, 50/50, and a silent auction.

On November 13th, the Roxana Unit will be hosting a presentation on Steamboats on the Mississippi. On December 4th, the G.R.O.W. unit will host their annual Christmas party at Bella Milano in Edwardsville. This is the unit's biggest fundraiser of the year which involves a live auction and games. The county will once again host an online auction from December 10th-12th through Facebook and for the first time ever, will be offering a crafting camp January 7th-9th, 2022 at Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp in Pinckneyville. The craft camp is open to anyone so if anyone is interested, please email emhohl@gmail.com for a registration packet. You can also call to have one mailed to you at 618-830-9610. Day options are available if you cannot attend the full weekend.

Marion

The Marion County HCE Board regathered in person for the first time on Monday, July 19th at 1:30 pm. Prior to that time, the University of Illinois Extension had suspended in-person activities at all locations including the Marion County Extension Office where our meetings are held. Discussion began regarding how we could move forward as many withdrew membership during COVID. Several made plans to attend the District Workshop in August. Monthly treasurer reports were shared regularly with the board while we were not meeting, and all were invited to attend the audit and budget meeting held offsite in April of 2021. The membership was informed of those results.

In August, Marion County HCE Board members who attended the District Workshop reported what they learned. It was noted that many awards were presented to counties for a variety of projects and programs that continued throughout the state during COVID. We know that Marion county members made face masks, lap robes, and fidget blankets. They continued to volunteer in other organizations, churches, and schools as was possible and we commend them for their service. Further discussion was held regarding programing as we move forward and potentially reorganize unit structures

as several units now have too few members to continue. Dimes were submitted by the Marion County HCE board members who have been saving them for donation to our general fund. It was announced that a nursing home in the county is in need of lap robes for its residents. Members are encouraged to help if possible.

In September, Marion County HCE board members shared their condolences with Co-Chairperson Phyllis Henson-Phillips at the death of her husband, Marion County HCE member Larry Phillips. A donation was made by the board from the general fund of \$25 to the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund. It was announced that the scholarship committee had chosen two \$500 scholarship recipients for the Fall 2021 Semester. We've still been collecting books for the book sale that usually funds our scholarships. An invitation will be issued in our next newsletter for members to come and "shop" in the closet at the Marion County Extension Office and make their choices. A donation can still be made to the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund. Discussion was held regarding HCE Week. A motion was made and passed to allow payment of membership dues from the general fund for the year 2021-2022. We'll reach out to members who dropped out over the last year and give them the opportunity to rejoin "on us". We enjoyed seeing lap quilts on display made by three Board members.

During the 2021 HCE Week, members were encouraged to make an item of fall décor on Monday, invite a friend to the Membership Social on Tuesday, attend the Marion County HCE Board meeting and bring the friend and a fall décor item made to the Membership Social, which is held in conjunction with the Board meeting Wednesday. They were encouraged to visit a library or read a book Thursday, go to lunch with a friend on Friday, and try a new recipe on Saturday. Several members joined the Marion County HCE Board for their meeting and the Membership Social. The First Vice President shared her program plans for the calendar year 2022 utilizing several online extension lessons and asked for speaker suggestions for additional topics during the other months. We will complete 2021 with the regular board meeting schedule and begin 2022 by meeting on days coinciding with lessons. All members will be invited to join for the lessons and attend the board meeting rather than sending a representative from each unit to return and teach the lesson. As always, "Mailbox Members" are welcome to join us for all lessons and activities. Units that still have enough members to meet separately are welcome to do so at a time of their choosing, but this will allow those individuals without units or smaller units to continue. We enjoyed looking at lap robes made by a unit member and the fall décor while sharing cookies, cider, and conversation. Special thanks to secretary Carrol Murray for providing door prizes for all those in attendance.

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

I was so happy to see many of my District 5 ladies at our mini-district meeting on October 28. I loved hearing your HCE week activities and sharing the news I learned at our October state board meeting. The plans that I have seen for the March conference are exciting, and I am also stoked about what we have planned for you at next year's district workshop!

It is amazing to me how soon the holidays will be here! I used to think that January and February were slow months for HCE activities – well, now that I'm on the state board, I realize how wrong I was. There is SO much planning and preparation for the conference that I had no idea about. When I went to conference before, things ran so smoothly and were so organized, it never occurred to me how much time and energy were involved. I am not complaining about all the work, though. Putting on a great conference is a labor of love, like planning a big family party. You work your tail off, but then you enjoy watching your loved one's scarf down the food, smile at the gifts that were exchanged, and settle down for family time – they may not have said thank you, but your hard work was worth it.

I just want to remind you 2nd vice-presidents to send your Year-End Membership Reports to me before January 5. Get together with your county treasurer to make sure your membership numbers agree because it's crucial that the dues the treasurer sends in coincide with the number of members you have on file. County board members are a TEAM who should be working together and helping each other to get the job done.

Have a very Merry Christmas or Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. See you in March!

Carol Harms



Hamilton

After many months of canceled or postponed events, we are happy to be able to meet in person again. Our annual meeting was combined with our annual picnic in June which was held at Dolan Lake. Although an officer installation was not held and all officers agreed to remain in their current positions for another year, our Public Relations and Community Outreach positions are open.



Several members have assisted our local 4-H program this year with their After School Program and GIFT Garden summer classes. Traditional “lessons” have had very low attendance in our county, so we began presenting “Make It and Take It” crafts once a month in the evening. Projects have included paint pours on canvas and vases, door decorations, and cookie decorating. This has served as outreach to the community and has even netted some new members.

A community service project we recently completed was making lap quilts to donate to our local nursing homes and the assisted living facility. We met several times and worked on some together and some were made independently by members at home. During HCE week, 40 lap quilts were donated to three facilities along with goodie baskets for the employees. An additional basket was donated to the hospital employees to show our appreciation for them. We plan to resume our monthly crafts in January and look forward to continuing to meet new people and welcome new members.



Sue Kinder



Jackson

Jackson County Home and Community Education Association just turned 75 years. We had so many ideas to celebrate but with the virus, we have curtailed them to mostly online celebrations and HCE pickups of lessons. Our meetings and lessons are small. It continues to be difficult for members to meet within their units. Large gatherings are becoming hard. We, however, will don our masks and gather where we can.

We had our Annual Meeting this past July with several members in attendance. Several HCE Board members attended the District Conference in Effingham. Other County members took advantage of an art display hosted by Marie Samuel at the Giant City Visitor’s Center on August 25th. What a fun day that was! We enjoyed her presentation on the display and then adjourned to a wonderful meal at the lodge. In September, many of our members attended outside events for the Apple Festival. In October, we celebrated HCE Week and throughout the county we celebrated our 75th year anniversary. In November we will celebrate the beginning of our holiday season with Thanksgiving and then move into December with Christmas. We will meet to mail and address Christmas cards to nursing homes and to the local Veterans in our area. We know many of us will celebrate Christmas quietly this year and will be alone as we were last year but being alone will not dampen our enthusiasm for the Holidays. Our County Board will plan on a fun event for our December meeting.



We have missed Annual State Conference for 2021. We are already discussing and looking forward to our State Conference in March 2022. Here is to 2021 and looking ahead to 2022. It will be a year that we can all celebrate the end of the virus and social distancing from our loved ones. Until our next gathering, stay safe, stay strong and know that we are looking forward to gatherings with our IAHC friends.

Jean Conrod

Jefferson



Greetings Friends,

The butterfly said to the sun, "They can't stop talking about my transformation. I can only do it once in my lifetime. If only they know they can do it at any time and in countless ways."- Dodinsky. We end our year of "Change is to grow, grow is to become". One can only imagine how many changes have been made since the start of the pandemic; hopefully, all of us have changed, grown, and are now spreading our wings and embracing the changes. How proud JCHCE was to hear our name called out for the 2021 COUNTY OF THE YEAR. We also received Cultural Enrichment 2020 Education Grand Award for the scrap quilt class and donating to a Fire Department Fund Raiser. We also received several Certified Volunteer Awards: County with the highest percentage of members reported in District 5 - 71%; County with higher HCE hours reported in District 5 - 3193; Highest number of masks made in District 5- 4979; Highest number of members reported in District 5 - 88. All of this was made possible by our dedicated, hardworking JCHCE members. We love our volunteers!!



We continue to make Monday delivery of meals on wheels; the clients are so appreciative of the deliveries. This has been an eye-opening experience for our members and certainly a much-needed outreach to our community. We continue making quilts for the Amy Center and to date we have donated 145 quilts. I would like to share a heartfelt story: one of the quilts was made using leftover fabric from Valentine's Day. Donna Vancil was telling the employee she figured a child wouldn't know or care that it was Valentine's Day fabric. The employee pointed to the word LOVE on the fabric and said this was wonderful as many of these children just don't hear that word enough. This proved to us that this is the correct project for us to be doing!!

In September we held another productive yard sale. Again, we could not do this without the help and support of our members. It is a big job but so worth it. We had a lesson in flower arranging in September, taught by Callie of The Flower Girls. Everyone went home with a beautiful flower arrangement. It was the first indoor lesson since the start of the pandemic, it was so nice to be together and be around friends again. Our International Night program was great. Our speaker, Michelle Jee, who grew up in Canada, provided an excellent program on Canada. She was able to share so many facts about life, foods, schools, and activities in Canada. Our members were so generous with items to be donated to the food pantry and items for infants at New Beginnings. On Saturday of HCE week we held a craft lesson, making wreaths, we had a lot of interest in this class and everyone made such beautiful wreaths. We had three guests enjoy the class and are interested in joining JCHCE. We will be collecting donations of crayons, coloring books and backpacks for the Amy center, and food donations for our local food pantry at our Annual Meeting in November. Please check us out on Facebook at Jefferson County HCE. There are many excellent lessons, and upcoming events going on with JCHCE. We are excited about the new 2022 theme, "Aspire to Inspire". It is hard to believe the holidays are almost upon us. We wish all of you many blessings for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Barb Shurtz
Silvana Morss



Johnson

The Johnson County HCE Board provides two \$500 scholarships each May with one recipient from each of the two county high schools. Selected in 2021 were Aubrey Anderson of Vienna High and Cole Rushing of Goreville High. The board decided on their fundraiser to provide for the 2022 scholarships to be a barbecue meal, to be served on both July 30th and 31st at The Vienna Commons. The VHS "Summer Theatre Intensive" was presenting a musical, "The Addams Family," featuring local students in grades 8-12 on those dates. The musical director and school personnel agreed to the HCE fundraiser being held in conjunction with the musical production with both groups selling tickets for the musical and the meal.

Both evenings found a crowd arriving to enjoy barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, chips, iced tea and lemonade, with homemade cookies by HCE members for dessert. The fundraiser was held prior to the musical and brought out many family members of the students. The young performers dressed in impressive costumes and presented a promenade around The Commons area, visiting with the diners and providing a preview of the upcoming performance. Remember Uncle Fester, Morticia, Pugsley, Gomez and Grandma Addams in the TV series of long ago? The HCE Board raised more than enough funding for next year's scholarships. The assistance and cooperation of the school personnel was much appreciated and the dual event was probably the social event of the season in Johnson County bringing out an enthusiastic crowd.

Massac

Emergency Response Teams Appreciation

Massac County HCE members recognized and showed their appreciation for 911 emergency response teams on September 11, 2021. The Metropolis Police Department, Massac County Ambulance Service, Metropolis Fire Department, and Massac County Sheriff's Department each received thank you baskets that included snacks and notes of appreciation.

Thank you to the Town & Country Unit and New Frontiers Unit for leading this effort of recognition.

Massac County HCE to Celebrate 75 Years

Massac County HCE will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2022. We look forward to celebrating HCE and the many members we have had through the years!

Community Outreach Events

Massac County HCE members have been busy supporting other organizations in the community and conducting outreach events. Among the many projects, a few noteworthy items include:

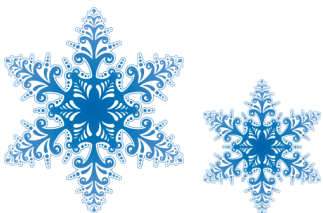
- Assisting the county program coordinator for 4-H and youth development to prepare materials for an upcoming 4-H member's workshop. HCE members have been asked to stop by the Extension Office, pick up material, cut squares, and return the cut material for the workshop.
- HCE members collected and donated twin sheets for Hospice in August.
- Local veterans in care facilities across the county will be recognized by HCE members and units during the month of November. HCE members have been asked to collect items for the care packages (pre-packaged snacks, socks, toothpaste, wash cloths, towels, soap, hand sanitizer, hand lotion, and personal care items). Approximately 40 bags will be prepared and delivered to local Veterans.



Massac County HCE International Event

Massac County HCE held their annual International Event on September 23, 2021. The country of study this year was Canada. The committee members who coordinated the event did an outstanding job of organizing a fun and educational evening! Each unit was asked to prepare a dish from the country of study. (The food was delicious!) Everyone who attended also had a chance to participate in the fun photo opportunity, and view examples of Canadian crafts on display.

Special thanks to Melissa Simpson, Massac County International Director, for making all the arrangement for the event.



Monroe

Despite the pandemic Monroe County had a busy summer and autumn. We awarded a \$500 scholarship to local student Corey Stumpf; delivered a plastic tub full and another 2-1/2-gallon container of pull tabs for the St. Louis Ronald McDonald House. Under the leadership of Community Outreach Chair, Kathi Emery, we collected non-perishable food items for the “Free Summer Lunch Program,” books for the “Summer Book Drive for Kids,” and more food for Thanksgiving “Blessing Baskets.”

We had our snack/beverage stand during the Monroe County Fair and after a week of enormous crowds and very hard work we made over \$6000 for our treasury and over \$300 in tip money which we donated to our local food pantry. At the August district meeting we found out that we won an IAHCE Cultural Enrichment first place award for our program teaching 4-Hers to crochet.

Sadly, we had to postpone September’s International Night until June because of personal responsibilities and travel restrictions. We know that our wonderful International Chair Marlene Kolbe will make this presentation in June, 2022 a knockout.



We tried a new idea for our HCE Week Cultural Enrichment contest: We included a Bunco Night while we waited for the judges’ decisions. We advertised Bunco Night extensively on our Facebook page and by word of mouth. While we didn’t attract any new members, we sure had a lot of fun!

Monroe County Commissioners signed a decree proclaiming October 11-16 as HCE Week in our county. More fun is planned as we prepare for our November Annual Meeting and Brunch, celebrating 80 years in Monroe County.



Perry

In May and June, we collected a good amount of luggage for the “Luggage of Love” campaign. In July, members generously donated items for our annual yard sale held in conjunction with the Pinckneyville Thresherman’s Show. Over \$1500 was made to help fund the two college scholarships we award every year. We recently held our craft day at the Pinckneyville Community Center with a dozen or so ideas for all attendees to create. Pictured are some members crafting the lighted fabric garland, clothespin wreaths, fabric envelopes, and bread in a bag. Some made holiday bows, a crayon/embroidery item and painted candle jars too.



Donations were brought in for the local Humane Society. Perry County HCE will have a promotional booth at Pinckneyville’s Mardi Gras Market Saturday, October 30th. On November 9th we will have our Holiday Ideas Day. The theme will be “Truckin’ Through the Holidays” and there will be presentations regarding Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Back in February and March, Perry County members were busy hand quilting a quilt that will be raffled off at the Holiday Ideas Day. Each unit will donate a gift basket to raffle and raise funds for the scholarships. Attendees are encouraged to bring items for the local food pantries.

Pulaski-Alexander

There was little activity with the Pulaski Unit in 2021. The Shawnee unit was brave and did have their regular meetings. In May, Carol Harms and Norma Korte conducted the installation of officers for 2021. Flora Helman was selected for Member of the Year for District 5. Three fifty-year members: Agnes Thurston, Emma Dell Bennett, and Flora Helman were recognized and applauded for their dedication to HCE.

In keeping with our motto of the year, "Change is to Grow", a beautiful butterfly garden was created at the Grand Chain library. At one board meeting we each were given a small flowerpot and packet of seeds to create our own garden. In July, the Shawnee unit invited the Pulaski unit to go on a field trip. We had lunch at The Kitchen in Anna, went on a tour to a blueberry farm, and shopped at the Bass Farm Market. It was an enjoyable day.

Several members participated in the parade to open the Pulaski County fair in August. We also donated to the food basket that was raffled off at the fair. Several members kept the HCE booth going and gave out brochures explaining the HCE programs. In August, five members; June Badgley, Mary Jo King, Lucille Bierbaum, Emma Dell Bennett, and Marth McMunn attended the District 5 meeting in Effingham. It is always nice to meet our friends in HCE for a day of programs, fellowship, and lunch. Awards normally presented in March were given out at this event.

In each unit we collect soda tabs, box tops, and used postage stamps. One of our members makes pillowcases and small quilts that go to children undergoing treatments in hospitals. Informative lessons were presented at the various monthly meetings. In October, we celebrated International Day with a program by Margaret Ann Grace and a potluck lunch using recipes from our country of study, Uruguay. A combination business meeting was chaired by June Badgley, the president. Plans are being made for the November and December meetings. It is hoped that all can attend and get back in the groove.

Martha McMunn



Randolph

Greetings from Randolph County--"Where Illinois Began." Things are beginning to start up again after the shut-down last year. We had our annual meeting on September 9, and Past President Jane Chapman, was present to install the board members. Since Canada was still our country of study, Janel Kassing, State International Chair, and her granddaughters gave an overview and highlights of that country. Honored were members that had been with the organization for over 50 years. A silent auction brought in some funds.



Introduced at the meeting was Robin Ridgley, Extension Educator Family Life, for this area. Carol Harms, the District 5 director was also introduced. She and Janel are both from Randolph County. Certificates were presented for volunteer hours. A gathering of personal items were donated to the local schools. There is a craft club associated with HCE in the county. They meet several times a year and work on a variety of crafts. One of their projects was to decorate a lamppost in Red Bud for the month of October. They emphasized the HCE in the display. (See picture). If everything continues, plans are to have a Cabin Fever early next year.

Union

The women have been busy working on two heritage consignment quilts for two area women. They entrusted their beautiful heritage quilts to us for our skillful hand quilting. This was our project for 2021 for the past 3 months.



White

It has been a difficult year for us, but we focused on what we could accomplish for our community in our time of needs. It was hard to wait for things to get better, as we have lost family members, friends, and H.C.E. Members this past year. We still tried to be encouragers. We have made many positive changes, by finding places to have meetings and we continue giving our lessons. Our community has been good to let us use their facilities, thanks to Senior Citizens in Norris City, the American Legion, and Operation Now.

We continue to be positive. We found new ways to meet and make plans for fund raisers. We get together and help our community during their time of need. Thanks to our H.C.E. Members for your time and energy and your generous contribution of your time and talents. As Janel Kassing stated, volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.

We are grateful for the wonderful things we have done, especially during these challenging times. So many of our members are an inspiration. We were able to have a fund raiser for our White County Salvation Army and teamed up with Red Cross blood drives in White County. We donated to our local food pantry and took snacks and cakes to our nursing homes. Patty Mills gave a lesson on improving your balance and a lesson on how to make cinnamon rolls, butter biscuits, and cathead biscuits. We were able to have our International Day. Connie Bingman did a great job. Ludene Taylor decorated and as always does a wonderful job. We are looking forward to helping our community with many other projects in the coming months.

Thanks again to our board members for all they do, especially our Newsletter. It takes all of us together. Our time and energy is what supports our H.C.E. organization and makes it possible, so thanks to all.

Fran Matheny

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



Educational scholarships are one of the many missions of the IAHCE, affiliated organizations, counties and even some local units. Everyone understands the benefits of education beyond high school and its high price. Whether a student is attending a two-year program, vocational or technical school, or a four-year university, there is always a need for financial aid to pay for tuition, books, housing, and transportation. If you know young people graduating from high school, or anyone going back to school for that matter, you can help point them toward scholarship opportunities.

The Country Women's Council USA, offers a **Ruth B. Sayre Memorial Scholarship** each year to a woman who is a legal resident of the USA, who shows a financial need, and who has the ability to complete her education. The applicant (or a relative) does not need to be associated with HCE, but the application with attachments must be submitted, reviewed, and signed by the state society president/chairman of the affiliated ACWW/CWC society FROM YOUR STATE. The applicant should go to the CWC-USA website (<http://www.cwcusa.org/ruth-buxton-sayre-scholarship/>) to download the application and rules. Information is also listed in The Guidebook, p. 74. The application must be completed and sent to our president Angela Hicks **by MARCH 1** so that she can approve the application and send it to CWC-USA in time for their April 1 deadline. Four \$500 scholarships are awarded each year.

Most members are familiar with the IAHCE scholarships that are awarded annually. We give four \$500 scholarships to applicants who demonstrate good academic achievement, school and/or community service, clear goals for their future, and good character (evidenced by two letters of reference. A student may win the scholarship up to four times. The details are listed in the scholarship guidelines at iahce.org and on pages 70-73. Students can go to the website and download the application themselves, but they do need to be sponsored by an IAHCE member they are related to (parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle), or the applicant may be an IACHE member.



A committee of state board members selects the scholarship winners, but the committee has no idea who the applicants are. The state secretary receives the applications, and then she blackens out all of the names and local references, so the committee members do not know who the applicants are or where they are from. The committee looks at each applicant as “the total package”, so that the winners do not necessarily have the highest GPA or are involved in the most clubs or activities or are going to the most prestigious school.

There were 15 applications submitted in 2021, but normally there are around 30 applicants. Students who do not win are notified and encouraged to apply again next year because their situation may change and they will be judged with a different set of applicants. Applications should be updated with the students’ most recent grades, activities, and references. For more information, contact Carol Harms, 2021 scholarship committee chair (charmaway@yahoo.com).



**Anna Jean Rhodes
1929-2021**

Seventy-two year HCE member, Anna Jean Rhodes of St. Elmo, passed away September 8, 2021 at Aperia Care in St. Elmo. Funeral services were October 13, 2021 at the First United Methodist Church in St. Elmo with burial at Maplewood Cemetery in St. Elmo.

Memorials may be made to the Historical Vandalia Museum or the donor’s choice.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.pagelfuneralhome.com

Anna Jean was born on May 28, 1929 in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, the daughter of Hobart M. and Mattie B. (Garrett) Bates. She married her high school sweetheart, Phillip H. Rhodes, on February 6, 1949 in St. Elmo.

She loved to cook and she was a collector of many things; she had more than 2000 cookbooks and over 300 nativities.

Anna Jean announced the St. Elmo news on the radio and wrote news articles for several newspapers in the area.

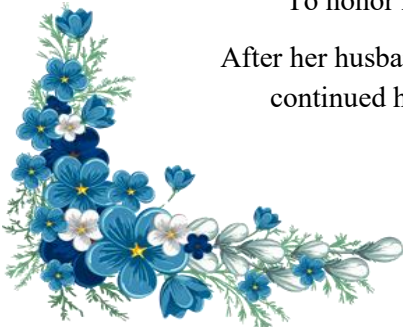
Anna Jean was a member of the First United Methodist Church in St. Elmo since 1943. She contributed countless volunteer hours and held many positions of leadership through the years in her local church and the Embarras River District United Methodist Women, schools, Women’s Club, Eastern Star, 4-H, Girl Scouts, Fayette County Home and Community Education, American Cancer Society, Fayette County Red Cross Board, Diabetes Board, St. Elmo Women’s Civic Club, Historical Vandalia Museum and various farm organizations.

She received a 16-gallon pin for donating blood to the American Red Cross.

To honor her years of volunteer service, Anna Jean was awarded 2015 St. Elmo Citizen of The Year.

After her husband passed away, Anna Jean took over the management of 423 acres of rented farmland and continued his role of selling for Pioneer Seed Company making her the first female to be in the role of Pioneer Sales Representative.

Anna Jean is survived by her son, daughter and two grandchildren.





White County Memorials

White County HCE got hit hard in 2020 by the death of four members. First came Mary Majors, a sixty-year member. Mary was faithful and could be counted on to attend lessons and any special programs. Mary passed away on June 29th. Mary was a member of the Lamplighters Unit. On November 22nd, Happy Faces Unit lost its member Charlie Mick. Charlie was the husband of member Flo Mick. Charlie could be counted on to drive other members to Unit outings and attend and help with fundraisers.

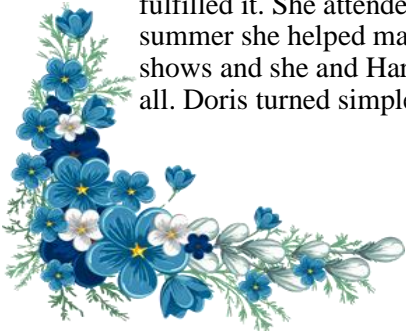
On December 13th, Better Homemakers Unit lost Doris Stinson. A forty-two-year member and the glue that helped keep the Better Homemakers together. Then on December 17th, the Happy Faces Unit had to say goodbye to Donald Smith, husband of member Shirley Smith, our current board president. Don was another member ready for any outing Happy Faces took.

A TRIBUTE TO DORIS STINSON

As I think of Doris and the amount of time, she gave to HCE, I had to sit down and write my tribute to Doris. Doris joined HCE in 1978, a member for 48 years. I became acquainted with Doris after I joined HCE. I was on the board and Doris came on the board. We started working together. I soon noticed Doris took her job seriously and wanted to always do her best.

Even in the last few years when she didn't feel well, she was doing her job and attending meetings. Doris was not a by-stander but a doer. She could always be depended on. If there were things to do, I knew Doris would be by my side doing her best to help. She always gave 100%. Also, Harold was by her side doing his best to help. If I needed ice or tables to set up, I could depend on Harold showing up with Doris to help.

What a lovely couple. They cared. They cared for their family, their neighbors, their friends and yes HCE. Doris was the glue that held Better Homemakers together. If someone wants to know how to be a good member of an organization, just look at the life of Doris Stinson. Doris was a good role model. When she took a job, she fulfilled it. She attended the meetings even when she didn't feel like it. She kept on giving and working. In the summer she helped make lunches for the school children, she helped plan church programs, she helped judge 4-H shows and she and Harold helped any club having a fund raiser including Relay for Life. Doris always gave her all. Doris turned simple into greatness.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - March 15th-17th, 2022 -Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham

NVON (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK INC)

July 25th-27th, 2022, Double Tree, Evansville, Indiana

2021 CWC Conference and ACWW USA Area Meeting Hosted by IAHC in Effingham, Illinois Photographic Summary

We crafted, toured, attended meetings, worked on resolution recommendations, heard wonderful presentations, and even danced a little! Just as important, we met 73 women and men from 14 states who were in attendance representing CWC, NVON, and ACWW-USA. We learned they work together just as we do to support the local community as well as the world-wide community through our various educational opportunities and programs. Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to the Illinois members who helped make this Conference a success!



Crafts and Tours



IAHCE Worker Bees



Meetings and Presentations



Illinois Members of IAHC



2022 CWC Conference
Invitation from Arkansas



Illinois Association for Home and Community Education

2020 County of the Year

for Excellence in County Programming & Presentations

Over 75 County Members

5th Runner Up: *Piatt County, District 3*

4th Runner Up: *Kane County, District 2*

3rd Runner Up: *Lake County, District 2*

2nd Runner Up: *McLean County, District 2*

And the Grand Winner is: Jefferson County, District 5

75 and Under County Members

5th Runner Up: *Edgar County, District 3*

4th Runner Up: *Pulaski/Alexander County, District 5*

3rd Runner Up: *Jo Daviess County, District 1*

2nd Runner Up: *White County, District 5*

And the Grand Winner is: Fayette County, District 4

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