

# *THE IAHCCE CHRONICLE*



*Change is to Grow,  
Grow is to Become*



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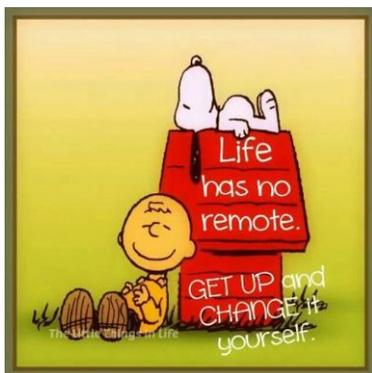
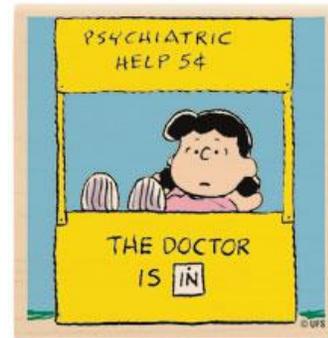
Website: [www.IAHCE.org](http://www.IAHCE.org) or Find us on Facebook!

# NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS



## From Outgoing President, Jane Chapman

As I sit here writing my last President's message to all of you, my mind keeps going to the quote, "when life hands you lemons, make lemonade", and visualizing Lucy in her lemonade stand turned into an office for her! I am sure there are many of us that actually felt we needed to see a psychiatrist or that several others in this world needed to see one. What a year 2020 was! It was definitely filled with a lot of changes but guess what, we all got up and made those changes and are still here to be writing or reading this message. We squeezed those lemons and started the process of making lemonade!



HCE members squeezed out over 13,500 plus masks (these are reported numbers so I'm sure the actual number is more) to aid family, friends, and our first responders in many cases. Many thanks to Ashley Davis, IAHCE CVH/Sales director, for creating an honor for all the members who made many of these masks. Donations, either monetary or actual food products, to food banks was increased this year immensely over last year. Kudos to International Director, Cara Ausmus, for continuing the Zero Hunger campaign and collecting monies for the Illinois Food Banks and ACWW's Zero Hunger campaign. Several counties mentioned on their service project reports about checking on or calling people that were alone or isolated. Eleanor Gregory, IAHCE Family and Community

Issues director was encouraging the state to reach out to the alone or isolated people in your communities by making calls or dropping them a "thinking of you card". That's some sugar in our lemonade!

I actually saw some new projects several counties started in 2020 despite COVID. Kane County hooked up with CASA and their "luggage for love" project to donate 56 pieces of small luggage, totes, backpacks, etc. to some of the over 600 foster children in Kane County. When the children arrive in foster care, they normally have their belongings in plastic bags, but now some will have something with a little more dignity than a plastic bag. Kane county has 200 new arrivals into their foster care program each year. Jersey county made 80 Cochlear Implant headbands to hold hearing aids on for two children's hospitals in St. Louis. Big pat on the back to these two counties for initiating changes!

The NubAbility project that evolved after the 2020 Annual conference when Jana Kuhnert talked about their special camps held all over the country and attended by children from all over the world born with deformities exceeded my wildest dreams. I was hoping to collect maybe \$1,000 to provide two scholarships for





the camps. I know one county contributed \$500 for one scholarship by itself. When the grand total came in at \$2,404.33, I was overwhelmed!

When I started my tenure as president, I set a goal to visit all of the member counties in the IAHCE organization. With 2020 turning out as it did, I did not achieve my goal. I would have made it to all but about four, as of now I have 10 that I have not visited. When I realized this, I was a little disturbed by it but then I thought I have been in almost all 102 counties in the state of Illinois with the visits I did achieve. So, as Snoopy says "let it go", I can't change the outcome and I did try my best. I do not regret any of the time or miles I accumulated in my time as IAHCE president. I had many great experiences! From spending the night in a bed and breakfast that was an old refurbished county court house and spending time in the jail cells there because of a tornado warning. I was told that the cell was the safest place to be during a storm

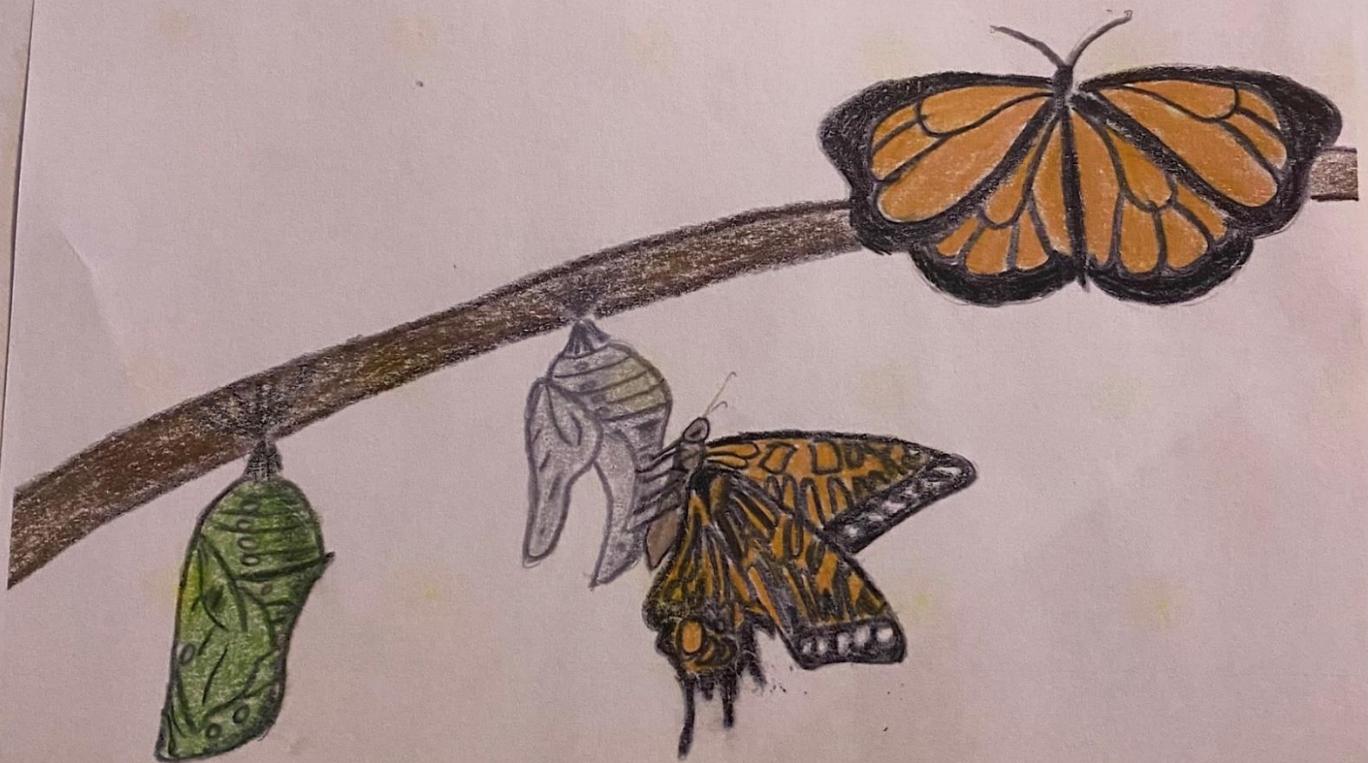
warning. Attending a high school musical with my hostess whose granddaughter was performing in the musical, hiking trails with my hostess, to being next of the Wisconsin line for a night meeting and making it to a next day early morning meeting in the southern third of the state. Leaving Lake county mid-afternoon on Thursday to drive home, after being on the road since Tuesday, to get up the next day and go to Tennessee to see senior recognition at our grandson's baseball game on Friday afternoon!

I do want to say "thank-you" one and all for giving me the opportunity to serve and hopefully bring about a little change! The organization must continue on with change in order to survive. We have survived the "storm" of 2020 and it did not stop many of you from achieving many outstanding gestures of kindness, giving, and education the public. We have squeezed those lemons disguised as COVID, added sugar with the many positive achievements and added water from the storms to make our lemonade!

Continue to encourage change in your local counties, your state, our country, and most importantly in your life. Start with Snoopy's advice.



If nothing ever changed  
there would be no  
Butterflies



Thank you for allowing me to  
metamorphosis and spread my wings!  
- Jane kt



## IAHCE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

**ANGELA HICKS**



Hello Fellow HCE Members,

In March, without much fanfare we said farewell to Jane Chapman, President; Cara Ausmus, International Director; Sharon Davis, District 4 Director; and Kathy Peterson, District 2 Director. Dedicated, enthusiastic, intelligent, unique, funny are just some of the characteristics these women embody! They will be missed! When you see these ladies in your county/district, please thank them for serving on the IAHCE Board! The IAHCE Board wishes you the best and thanks you for your dedicated service to IAHCE!

So who are the incoming officers? As many of the members know, Angela Hicks from Lake County (that's me 😊) was elected President. Janel Kassing from Randolph County was elected International Director. Donna Richards from Jasper County was elected District 4 Director. Rita Overacker from Kankakee was appointed as District 2 Director. (Kathy Peterson will continue working on the IAHCE 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee) Congratulations to each of these new officers!

As I mentioned in my letter to the County Presidents, I am just now beginning my 1<sup>st</sup> term and I am already looking at the end, 2024. Why is this significant, it is IAHCE's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! A huge accomplishment for an organization such as ours. It is so important to maintain our membership, grow our membership, all the while receiving and giving quality educational programs and giving back to our community. These are my goals. How we go about communicating these goals is also a goal as well. Join me at the August District Workshops to hear more!!

The IAHCE Board is working on the August District Workshops. This will be the first time in over a year that we will be able to meet so we are working hard to make this a meaningful and fun event! Look for more information about the District meetings as we move closer to the event. It is important to share information received from the IAHCE Board Officers with ALL County Board Officers as well as with County HCE Members. Thank you for sharing all of the information with each other! Hopefully, even though you may not be meeting in person, you are still talking with one another by phone, email, or by mail! It is even more exciting to meet by video conferencing! I am so excited to once again be on the State Board and I look forward to meeting you. I hope to be able to visit you in your county. In the meantime, I want to invite you to join me in Zoom meetings, YouTube presentations, emails, and phone calls. Plan on hearing from me in the near future! Let's get going "building enthusiasm and membership in HCE"!

Angela  
New email: [angelahickshce@gmail.com](mailto:angelahickshce@gmail.com)

**"Let's Build Enthusiasm & Membership in HCE!"**

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT - Mary Eustace

*Last year the world turned upside down! May this next year turn it back again!* It's a new year and hopefully a more normal one.

First, it was a difficult decision that our State Board had to make in cancelling our annual conference. Though COVID-19 has changed many lives this past year, the "HCE Spirit" still survived. From the reports coming in, our ladies continued to do volunteering where they could. I am proud to say HCE servicing communities with mask making, and demonstrating the caring factor proved to be amazing! Our County Boards and Units were not able to hold regular meetings and celebrations. The "Spirit" of our beautiful organization had many members staying in touch with phone calls, cards and emailing our members just to say "hi" and "hope all is well with you." We are a giving organization and care about one another. Thank you for keeping things going in each of your counties for HCE membership and community involvement.

Lessons that were planned for the 2020 season were not used because of not meeting. Lessons we had voted on at last year's conference were distributed by the University of Illinois Extension. You can go on our webpage or the U of I Extension webpage and check out lesson packages or webinars that are currently offered. Karla Belzer, U of I Extension Liaison, reports that the 2021 webinars are showing with good attendance and interest in what Extension and IAHCE is offering.

IAHCE District Workshops are scheduled for August 10 – 12, 2021. Please encourage everyone who would like to attend to please register with your county board. Registration has been increased to \$25.00 and this includes lunch. More details coming.

I am looking forward to seeing you in person. Be open to possibilities of serving our communities and bring awareness of HCE in your county. *Strong Women make Waves!*

Mary Eustace,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President IAHCE



## 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – Norma Korte

Hello, everyone! What an unusual year we have had. I was disappointed we could not meet for the state conference, but for the safety of all our members, it was for the best. We are making plans for interesting and informative August District Meetings. The Awards Night will be the highlight of the program, and we hope you can attend. The theme will be "Change is to Grow IAHCE, Grow is to Become! If you are a past IAHCE State Board Officer who will be attending, please let me know so we can plan to honor you at the District Meetings.



Thank you to all counties that submitted membership reports on time. Despite the difficulties of this past year, I was encouraged to learn that some counties gained between 1 and 31 new members! Special recognition goes to the top two membership gaining counties – Lake (22) and Livingston (31). Some people chose not to renew their membership, but hopefully they will reconsider and come back, or you will find new members to gain in the upcoming year. Whether it be by Zoom, phone conference calls, or outdoor meetings, please try to stay in touch with your members as much as you are able to safely do so.

Thinking back to our discussion during the 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President session – we can help new members feel welcome when we LISTEN their ideas, TRY new ways/ideas, CALL prospective members, and INVITE them to meetings

and activities as a way to 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.

One of the changes we have adjusted to this year was being open to using webinars for 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, take the time to do so. You will not be disappointed!

This will be my last year as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Let's make it a memorable one for increasing IAHCE membership! As I included in my packets, the Butterfly had to go through the struggles of the restricted cocoon to make his body stronger and achieve the ability to spread its wings and fly. Sometimes we have to 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!

Sincerely,

*Norma Korte*

IAHCE 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



## **SECRETARY**

**Cathy Eathington**



By the time you get this the snow should be gone and flower coming up. My hope and prayer are that 2021 will improve as the year goes on each month.

Our new President Angela Hicks says we will have District meetings even if they are in parks or fields. These meetings will be August 10, 2021 in Effingham, August 11, 2021 in Springfield and August 12, 2021 in Sycamore. I look forward to seeing all of you at one of these meetings.

## **COUNTY SECRETARY OFFICER REPORTS:**

1. Please type or print. You can e-mail them to me at [cathyeathingtonhce@gmail.com](mailto:cathyeathingtonhce@gmail.com).
2. Please include phone area code and zip code.
3. Please include e-mail if you have one. We want to save postage costs and e-mail information to you.
4. **If an officer moves, please let me know** otherwise all information will go to your old address

On September 13,14,15, 2021, Illinois HCE will host the CWC Conference in Effingham at the Keller Convention Center. You might want to put these dates on your calendar, this will be an opportunity to learn more about HCE.

Calling on all HCE members to work on getting new members. The recent retirees, now have time to join us. Invite them to your meetings and activities.

Cathy

## **TREASURER**

**Melissa Chitwood**



### **Spring into Action!**

What a joy! This morning I was able to hang laundry on the line for the first time in a long time. Some may be thinking, why is she so thrilled about doing laundry?

It is not the laundry itself; it is the stimulation of senses. It is the wonderful, unique smell of outdoor, line dried laundry. It is the warm feel of the sun and the breeze on my face. It is the sound of birds singing. It is the wonderful sights that I see. Spring is finally here and it is a new season, a new day, a new beginning.

Is that not what 2021 is for us, a new beginning? I am optimistic that 2021 will bring a different type of change for us all and that we have learned and grown from 2020. Let us not take for granted and be grateful for our needs met and be humble and appreciative for our wants fulfilled.

A new beginning; does that mean more change? 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.

I mentioned spring earlier. Think of all of the seedlings getting ready to sprout forth. They change. Growth takes time and the struggle is real. But they are not afraid to grow. Their beauty is our reward for their persistence, growth and change. If a tiny seed can do this, then why can't we? HCE has the potential to sprout forth for all to see the beauty this wonderful organization has to offer. Growth takes time and the struggle is real, and we can't be afraid to grow. Let 2021 be our new season, our new beginning. Let us continue to engage members in activities. Let us communicate and share ideas between units and counties of how to "fertilize" our HCE garden.

The last paragraph from *The Seed that Never Grew* reads: "If you plant honesty, you will reap trust; if you plant goodness, you will reap friends; if you plant humility, you will reap greatness; if you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment; if you plant consideration, you will reap perspective; if you plant hard work, you will reap success; if you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation; if you plant faith in God, you will reap a harvest. So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later."

(<https://www.kindspring.org/story/view.php?sid=14871>) I think it is time for all of us to start the season of a new beginning by planting the right seeds.

Your IAHCe Board is planning District Meetings and the seeds are already being planted for the 2022 Annual Conference. I look forward to meeting so many people this year! In the meantime, remember Support Fund Applications are due June 1. Information can be found beginning on page 75 of the IAHCe Guidebook (<http://www.iahce.org/iahceguidebook.html>). By now, all county Treasurers should have received a packet of information from me. These packets were mailed via USPS in mid-March. If you have not received your packet, please call me and I will send another one to you. Dimes for Hunger donations that would have been turned in at annual conference are still being accepted. Please mail these donations to me prior to June 1. Checks should be made payable to IAHCe with a memo stating Dimes for Hunger.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in August. Until then remember; Grow through what you go through.

Melissa



***Butterflies appear, when angels  
are near!***

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE



## Cultural Enrichment Sonya Bishop

I found this neat new art medium and had to try it! It is fast easy and very forgiving. It is much safer than the traditional wood burning tool and safe for younger children to use.

All you need to do is lightly sand the wood. Trace, freehand or stencil the pattern on the surface with the **Scorch Marker**. Then use a heat gun to “burn” the area marked. The image gets darker the longer the heat is on the marked area. I found that if you make a mistake, a little sanding with 220 grit sandpaper will clean the area.

Scorch Marker can be found on  
**SCORCHMARKER.COM**

Items needed:  
Scorch Marker  
Pattern or stencil  
Item to be decorated  
220 grit sandpaper  
Heat gun



Sonya Bishop  
IAHCE Cultural Enrichment Director

## Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory

### Happy Springtime!

*“The sky is blue; the grass is green. And we are sandwiched in between!”*

Once upon a time, a 2021 IAHCE Conference was planned and hope was high that we could meet. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, a decision to cancel became necessary to keep our HCE members safe while keeping them informed. As Momma would say, “Where there is a will there is a way.” The IAHCE Board attended to the basics of accomplishing these necessary goals. Now we are looking forward to the District Workshops in August, as life will be on the path to returning to normal with a new appreciation for the value of HCE in our lives.

At the 2021 District Workshops, certificates will be presented to those who earned them by completing the 2020 IAHCE Education Awards. At that time the Award Books will be returned.

Normally, the Great American Family would have been honored at the 2021 IAHCE Conference Banquet Night. This year, the Great American Family will be introduced to the HCE members at the 2021 District Workshop in which the Great American Family resides.

Our Family and Community Issue Directors will need to make plans for projects and activities as we promote maintenance and the growth of our units. Perhaps a survey of interests and a list of needs in your county could be a start. We can all look forward to creating new ideas to benefit our families and communities

and we can also continue with those ideas that are effective and enjoyable for those who will benefit and enjoy them like our creative HCE members!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the District Workshops in August!!!

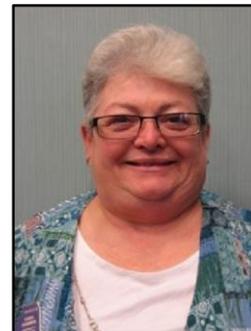
All the Best and God Bless,

Eleanor Gregory 618-410-5951



### **Outgoing International Director- Cara Ausmus**

A final note to say how much I enjoyed serving as a District Director and International Director. I have learned and shared on many levels and locations. I want to welcome Your new ID, Janel Kassing, she is going to continue to keep us seeing the world in both old and new ways! Please give her a warm welcome and many of you already know her as DD for the former 7th district. Please continue to reach out globally with reading, PBS travel and food shows, music, news and many other formats.



I have seen Xenophobia in the news and we have traveled to too many countries to fall into that category. Wishing everyone Happy Trails and I hope to see you at future events and be in Malaysia for the next ACWW Triennial. I watched a travel show on Ontario this week, saw Canadian semis on the way to Effingham, and am working with leaders in Ontario to create some penpal/email opportunities. Will be in touch with Janel as we try to bring this to both memberships.

Namaste!

### **Newly Elected International Director- Janel Kassing**

I am so thrilled to be on the IAHCE board again. I have previously served as the District 7 (now 5) Director. I am widowed and a mother of 2, a son and a daughter. Both are married and have gifted me with 7 grandchildren, aged 2 to 18. I live in Red Bud, 20 miles south of Belleville, a beautiful small town. My 150+ year old house is right on Main Street.



I enjoy decorating it and keeping up the yard. I have 2 cats, Charley and Mackley. They are great company. I enjoy crafts especially counted cross stitch and making greeting cards. During COVID I embroidered 3 baby quilt tops for future great grandchildren and am now doing 4 juvenile pillowcases for QUAD great nieces and a nephew due in April.

Please feel free to contact me by email ([janelkassing@yahoo.com](mailto:janelkassing@yahoo.com)) or by phone (618-977-1175) with your International questions. Looking forward to traveling the world with you. See you in August!!

Janel



**“Whisper I love you to a butterfly and it will fly to heaven to deliver your message.”**

## CVH (CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS)/SALES- Ashley Davis

Hello Everyone and Happy Spring!

What a change!! What a difference!! It was for sure a bittersweet decision to cancel the IAHCE 2021 Annual Conference. The State Board was sad but kept the well being of the HCE Members in mind and that is what mattered the most. Covid-19 made us all make changes in our lives and all that we do daily.



I am hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter, that you all have received your CVH packets that would have been handed out at the Annual Conference in March. I sent you all the information from the guidebook, a letter, the all over state numbers for CVH. If your county had members receiving Certificates of Recognition you should have those also. In with the CVH Certificates you will also find Certificates of Recognition on a blue colored paper, those are for the members name that was turned for making the Covid-19 mask. If not please contact me so that I can get them to you.

I am sure that you all are curious about the Certified Volunteer Hours and the final totals. I am excited to share with you all the all over the State Of Illinois numbers:

**1,463 Members turned in CVH Hours.**  
**47 Members turned in 1,000 hours or more**  
**72,076 HCE Hours were reported**  
**194,123 Other Hours reported**  
**287,585 Total CVH Hours were reported**  
**52 out of 70 Counties reported**  
**387 Certificates of Recognition**  
**Total CVH Hour Value: 291,599 x \$27.20 = 7,931,492.80**



I was in aww over the total amount of Covid-19 mask made and the hours spent making these. So let me share those numbers and let you all share in my aww moment to:

**Total Number of Covid-19 mask 29,477**

**Total of Hours 20,451**

As your IAHCE CVH/Sales Director I was amazed as the County CVH started rolling in. I knew that the hours would be lower than all the previous years. Even when you lives were changing by the minute, you all still found the time during a National Pandemic to volunteer and help in your communities. Thank you all for opening your hands and your hearts during all the changes and uncertain times.

I would like to share that I have successfully recorded all the Members CVH Hours on Excel spreadsheets. It was a big job, but it was so much easier to record the hours this year. I am now in the process of scanning all the old file cards and organizing all that by the County and Districts.

A little note from the sales table: I have the **2021 Conference Lapel pin**. If you would like to order one to be shipped, please let me know. I will also have these with me at the 2021 August District Workshops along with all the other sales items. Please let me know if you need to order any items for your counties annual meeting. With mail being crazy these days I ask that you let me know at 2 weeks before your meeting to hopefully make sure it gets to you by the date needed. Hope to see you all at 2021 August District Workshops! Until then May God Bless You All and Stay Safe!!

*Ashley Davis*  
*IAHCE CVH/Sales Director*



*"Let your Dreams, be your Wings"*

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS- Emily McDowell**



Hello HCE Members!

Have you been enjoying this interesting spring weather we have had?? It's been nice to get out of the house and do things such as work in my garden/plant flowers, go to yard sales, and go on walks! Things are finally opening up so we can feel a new sense of normalcy and for that I think we can all celebrate!

I attended my first craft class at my favorite local arts and crafts store, which was the first class they have had since COVID started last year. It was so refreshing and I can't wait to do more!

Since we didn't have conference this year, it is especially important that we all get together in August at the District Workshops! These one-day workshops will in part be a mini conference in which we will hand out those awards that would have been given out at conference and recognize all of the great work you all continued to do throughout the year, despite the nasty virus! Praises to all of you for your continued hard work and efforts during the pandemic!

I have seen some districts, counties, units, etc. really step up to keep people engaged in HCE and that is absolutely wonderful! I hope you will all be able to utilize some of the ideas I sent to each PR director, especially those centered around the "butterfly theme" which goes hand in hand with our theme for the year.

PLEASE NOTE: I have recently moved and therefore there is a new address to send newsletter subscriptions to. The address is updated on the back cover page.

I also want to apologize for this past year's work. It was a big adjustment for me and I had to work through some of my job duties. It was definitely a learning process! I am working harder this year to reach out to those whose subscriptions will be ending and trying to stay more organized. I no longer have a basement in my new house, so this should definitely alleviate my multiple piles of HCE stuff! I have only one place for everything to go 😊. The best way to get ahold of me is through email as I do work full time and cannot answer most calls. If you do need to get ahold of me by phone, please leave a message. If you have not received a newsletter and think you are due for one, please send me an email with the member names, addresses and your last payment information if possible. This makes things a bit easier for me.

Until we meet again,

Blessings, love, and continued prayers for your safety, well-being, and mental sanity!

Emily McDowell



## **DISTRICT 1 NEWS**

**DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR - Becky Thomas**

Greetings to the members of District 1.

It seems that things might be getting back to normal. Around my corner of the state, restaurants are busy, the hospital is busy with surgeries and procedures again but myself am still being cautious. I would like to congratulate the work that counties are putting into their newsletters. It is encouraging to see. As my president and editor of our county can attest to, it's challenging for me to write an article.

The District 1 and 2 Meeting will be held, but expect a different style of the program. I was going to present the advantages of going to the IAHCE website at Conference. Besides the Guidebook with county leadership and forms, the State and District newsletters can be found. Clarence still took pictures of the State Board at our Covid Annual Conference and those are under Archives / Photos. Please take a look at the new 2021 officers. I look forward to working with these ladies. The IAHCE website is fun and easy to use, I just found videos for lessons for learning from the UI Extension, so I can watch by myself or get information for my county. I hope that you will check us out. I hope to see members more this year and I hope all stays well going forward.

Becky Thomas, District 1 Director



## Jo Daviess

### News from the top of Illinois from the Jo Daviess County HCE

For over a year, our members have been missing our gatherings, lessons, and camaraderie. We are looking forward to getting together soon. To better serve our members, we needed to adjust our way of doing business, so the newsletter included the monthly lessons, and those members with email addresses started receiving the newsletter electronically. With resourcefulness, we continued to serve our member and our community. As our annual fundraising events were cancelled, our units participated in a community garage and book sale at the Elizabeth Community building in late October. With safety protocols in place, members and others did closet cleaning and had a successful Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Left-over items were donated to Goodwill. We had flowers from the Garage sale we delivered to the Elizabeth Assisted Living Home.

We decorated a tree for the Stockton Heritage Museums' Festival of Trees. The trees were displayed in the windows of the Museum as they were not open. Mittens and hats collected were distributed to Stockton Elementary School. Books were donated to the Little Libraries in Galena.

### Recognizing our Public Servants

Units of Jo Daviess County HCE recognized the hard work and dedication of our Police and Fire Department and the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Department. Woodbine and Hills Units provided cookies and brownies to Stockton and Galena stations respectively and Eureka Units provided Subway gift cards to the stations.

Photos on following page



Galena Police Department



Stockton Volunteer Fire Department  
Member  
Chief Kevin and Officer Fred of the  
Stockton Police Department on St.

Patrick's Day

**“They whispered to her you cannot withstand the storm. She whispered back I am the storm!”**





Christmas Tree at the Museum



Garage Sale



## Stephenson

**SPRING IS HERE!** Depending on where you live in Illinois, you may have mowed your lawn several times already, but at least we have green grass to brighten the landscape. Flowers in bloom will also be a welcome sight after a long winter!



In December, the Freeport Health Network (FHN) once again sponsored the Festival of Trees at the Freeport Public Library. It was one of the few events that went on despite Covid-19, but with restrictions in place to prevent the spread of this disease. Non-profit organizations were invited to participate in this holiday event by decorating one of many Christmas trees set up throughout the library. The trees were voted on by the public and a panel of judges, with a monetary award going to the winning entries. This year's theme was, "Kindness Is Like Snow--It Beautifies Everything It Covers."---Kahill Gabran. Only two members of HCE were allowed in to decorate the tree. No handouts were allowed, but we were able to display a list of 2021 lessons and contact information for our organization. Decorators were required to socially distance from others and wear a mask. Once again, this local Christmas tradition was held for the enjoyment of the community--even during a pandemic!

While 2020 saw lots of events where our HCE members normally volunteer disappear, our members still found ways to volunteer. They became personal shoppers for friends and neighbors, as well as transporting individuals to appointments. Some HCE

members showed off their sewing skills by making face masks--free of charge! The volunteer spirit is alive and well!

In 2021, for the first time, Stephenson County HCE will be offering two \$300 scholarships for qualified applicants. In past years, we have only offered one scholarship.

The majority of our units are not meeting in person, but I look for that to change as we approach warmer weather and more people get the vaccine. As we get further into 2021, I am hopeful that things can start getting back to a more normal state with meetings and gatherings again. Stay safe.

## HAVE A GREAT SPRING AND SUMMER!

Janice Fryer  
Public Relations, Stephenson County



## DISTRICT 2 NEWS

### DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR — Rita Overacker

Please welcome Rita, your new District 2 Director! Rita is excited about being part of the IAHCE board and is looking forward to working with you all!



### ***And from your outgoing District 2 Director, Kathy Peterson....***

Thank You  
District 2  
Truly grateful for your support  
for the last 5 years and so much more.



Kathy Peterson

### ***DuPage***

It seems like spring has sprung. The sounds of spring are back, the grass is greener and the cheery yellow daffodils are swaying in the breeze.

Since we haven't met for months, I looked over old HCE photos from the past to share. They brought back some fun memories. Also, a prayer for those who are no longer with us.



"There is more to life than being a passenger"

This month we are holding our second board meeting in a year at the Extension Office. We are looking forward to planning our Annual Meeting and Luncheon in the future. Members have been spending their days working on those long-lost projects, reading, and contacting some folks they love.

Stay healthy and safe.

Mary Lambert- President



## **Grundy**

Hi from Grundy County,

I hope that everyone has stayed healthy and has found new things to do because of the pandemic. We stopped having our usual meetings for everyone's safety. We have tried zoom, but some people do not have computers, internet or the knowledge how to set it up. We missed so much this past year and hopefully this year things will brighten up.

Our board wanted to do something special for members who have been in our county organization for 50+ years. We decided to give them each a potted plant, balloons and a certificate. The ladies were Bessie Hexdall, Shirley Jorstad, Faye Male, and Ruth O'Hara,

We are still sending cards and little trinkets and goodies to people at the nursing/assisted living facility who do not have anyone.

Our book club has read *Elephant Company* by Vicky Croke, *Old Girls' Network* by Judy Leigh and *Summer of 69* by Elin Hilderbrand. April's book will be *Double Fudge Brownie Murder* by Joanne Fluke.

In March, our library opened up their meeting room and we were able to get together once more to see what everyone has been up to and the news from our state board. We had our first full board meeting this month since October 2020 and had a lesson on "How to Save on Travel" discussing many things. A lot has gone on at state even though we did not have a state conference this year we do want to congratulate our new President Angela Hicks and International Director Janel Kassing. We also want to thank the retiring members of the state board for their encouragement and enduring hard work.

Monica Evans  
Grundy County  
Public Relations



## **Lake**

Hello from Lake County where spring has officially sprung. After several bone-chilling months, March came in like a lamb. As I write, the flowers are starting to show and temperatures are in the upper 50s.

We members of LCAHCE are so very proud and happy that our county president, Angela Hicks has been elected President of IAHCE. We know she will bring the same wonderful enthusiasm, energy, creativity, and commitment to IAHCE that she gives us.



**Angela Hicks**

Our board continues to meet via Zoom and keep in touch with our fellow HCE members using the telephone contact list we created in May 2020. By the end of December, every board member had called every number on the list. As we had come full circle, we restarted calling the 2021 membership in January.

Our Extension office is closed to us for printing and mailing services, so President Angela Hicks continues to write a short newsletter with monthly highlights. It is e-mailed to most of our members. Those without e-mail addresses are mailed hard copies.

Our Annual Business Meeting is planned for April 23. Our chairperson, Barbara Rowland, has found us a great venue with good food and plenty of room for social distancing. Attendance will be limited as we will be adhering to the CDC Guidelines and the capacity limits required by Governor Pritzker.

For some of our Lessons for Living, we are taking advantage of the free online webinars taught by University of Illinois Extension educators. These are offered in collaboration with the Illinois Home and Community Education units throughout the state.

Lastly, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Volo Unit member Dorothy Rodewald on January 27 by holding a birthday car parade in front of her home. As the photograph shows, she was ready for us and reportedly had a great time.



Stay well and be safe until next time.

***Candace Keegan***  
***Newsletter Editor for LCAHCE***



## **Livingston**

Two important events during March and April are keeping the LCHCE Board busy. The first, Super Saturday, was held in cooperation with McLean County HCE on March 20. Over 40 people from Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties came to hear Horticulture Educator Kelly Allsop teach us about gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies. Attendees chose from one of 3 options for the second part of the event. Each local unit in the 3 counties sent a representative to take each of the 3 lessons: "Exploring Current Diet Trends" by Foods & Nutrition Educator, Jenna Smith, "What is Chronic Pain?" by Kathleen Emery and "Modern Trends in Textiles and Clothing" by Arlene Martell. Livingston County HCE hosted the event to which the public was invited, in Pontiac.

The second major event, our 2021 Annual Meeting is being held Monday April 19 at the Livingston County Extension Office beginning with a brunch at 9:00 a.m. The speaker is Sarah Brummitt from

Hope Pregnancy Center in Pontiac. Members are invited to bring baby items to donate to the pregnancy center. During the business meeting members will elect new officers and vote on 17 changes to the constitution. Special guests District 2 Director Kathy Peterson and State President Angela Hicks are to be in attendance. Because our annual meeting was cancelled last April, unfinished business will include honoring new members and memorializing deceased members from last and this year.

Our board expressed appreciation of our members to law enforcement recently by collecting 2 large containers of snack items. Linda Zavada, Long Point Unit Secretary, presented the snacks to her daughter-in-law Livingston County Sheriff's Deputy Andrea Zavada. Dep. Zavada delivered the snacks to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department along with a note of appreciation to all of them for keeping Livingston County citizens safe.

Family Living Chairman Shirley Meenen encouraged members to remember our "furry Friends" by donating items needed by the Livingston County Humane Society in our spring newsletter. She also reached out to Livingston County 2021 High School graduates and current college students encouraging them to apply for the \$1000 scholarship that we will present at the 4-H Fair next July.

In spite of all the challenges - both weather and virus- Livingston County has been carrying on with service and education as best we can. We are so grateful to have our extension office open once again.



Long Point Unit secretary Linda Zavada presents 2 boxes of snacks to her daughter-in-law Deputy Sheriff Andrea Zavada in appreciation of the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

Kelly Allsop speaks to attendees at Super Saturday telling them about "Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies".



## **McLean**

Greetings from McLean County! We are looking forward to spring after this very unusual year.

The HCE Holiday Party in December was cancelled due to the facility closing. However, most units were able to safely meet and enjoyed the lessons "Mason Jars – Decorating through the Year," "Have You Had Your Cup of Java Today?", "Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences" and "Milk: The Real Deal". Lighthouses in Illinois continue to be featured for minor lessons. Fun fact handouts on the International Country of Study on Poland were given each month through January. Starting in March, we started receiving "fun facts" on the new Country of Study - Canada.

Forty-one McLean County and Livingston County HCE members attended Super Saturday on March 20. Participants took back to their county unit lesson programs on Exploring Current Diet Trends, Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies, Modern Trends and Textiles in Clothing and What is Chronic Pain.

Cultural enrichment monthly activities included: "Pot Holder/Jar Opener" class in February, and a Dutch treat meet up at Busy Corner Restaurant in Goodfield, IL for lunch and good conversation. There will be "Basket Making" in April and a "Succulent Pot Party" in May. Read and Share is scheduled to discuss in coming months: "The Golden Boy" by Tara Sullivan, "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennet, and "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones.

Community service workshop days saw members make many sets of hats, scarves and mittens. Family Issues chair is collecting specific items each month (men's deodorant, women's body wash and women's socks) to be given to area agencies.

The Membership-Friendship event this year will be a “Membership Round Up” to be held Sunday, June 6. Details are not complete as of this writing. Contact Karen Crull: 309-826-9559 or [kcrull1824@aol.com](mailto:kcrull1824@aol.com) for more information. McLean County HCE is also participating in the Bloomington Farmers Market and the “Old Rugged Barn” events in Towanda with bake sale booths. These moneymaking events fuel money into our scholarship fund and our other community service projects such as sending soldier comfort boxes every 3 months.

It is with anticipation HCE members look forward to the McLean County Fair August 4 -7, 2021. HCE is making plans to hold the Young at Heart event at the fair on Thursday, August 5, 8:30am – 12noon in Cloverleaf Auditorium.

For current information, visit our media sites- **Website: [www.mcleanhce.org](http://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, McLean County PR Committee



Kelly Allsup – Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies  
Pain



Jenna Smith – Current Diet Trends



Kathleen Emery – What Is Chronic



Arlene Martell – Trends & Textiles in Clothing



19 attend “Busy Corners Restaurant” in Goodfield.

## DISTRICT 3 NEWS

### DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR — Mary Johnson

SPRING! Can it truly be here? Warmer temperatures, warmer breezes and a few spring flowers are a sure indication that our season is about to “change”. I’m still working on transforming from that chubby caterpillar to that beautiful butterfly! It’s not quite bikini season so I still have time.



Recently, my HCE unit held our first business meeting since the lockdown via zoom. As the minutes from our last meeting were read, we realized it had been exactly one year since we were together and able to hold a “normal” meeting. It was hard to hear of all the activities that had been planned and unfortunately due to COVID did not happen. We didn’t get to do our planned activities, but we still found a way to see each other, even if it was only by zoom. We did manage to a few small social meetings at our local park and worked individually on a large quilt project for a local homeless veteran’s shelter.

Change – have we ever! Change is painful and scary but it also encourages growth. How many of us have learned new ways to communicate this year! This time last year if you’d have asked me about a zoom meeting, I wouldn’t have known what you were talking about! Now I usually have several a week. All across the state, units and counties are figuring out how to “meet”, how to continue to reach their communities, and how to keep going no matter what. I am so proud of this organization – each and every part – for the hard work and dedication everyone has shown through an extremely difficult time.

I hear more and more people say that they are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Our spring and summer are looking a little brighter this year. The IAHCE board met in person in Effingham during what would have been our conference week. We are dedicated to holding in person events this year. We are in the process of planning our August District workshops. They may look a little different this year, but we will have them! Stay tuned for more details.

Change – our IAHCE board has some changes this year. It was hard to say goodbye to several board members: President Jane Chapman, International Director Cara Ausmus and District Director Sharon Davis. They will all be missed! Our new President, Angela Hicks is just the perfect person to take up Jane’s mantle and lead us out of these uncertain waters. Cara passed the International torch to Janel Kassing. Donna Richards took over District Director duties from Sharon Davis. All three women are excellent additions to an already outstanding board!

Believe it or not, plans are already underway for the IAHCE Annual Conference for 2022. Eleanor Gregory and I are the co-chairs of the event and are excited to plan conference. We will be returning to Effingham and our dates are March 15-17, 2022. Save those dates and plan to attend!

I hope to see many of you at annual meetings this year. When you have a date, let me know and I will do everything I can to attend.

Until we meet again!

Mary Johnson, IAHCE District 3 Director



## ***Champaign***

Greetings from Champaign County HCE. It has still been a challenge for our County to plan events so far for 2021 because of the county public health restrictions and facility availability.

Our planned November Cultural Art “Drop & Go” had to be postpone due to COVID 19, but we were able to reschedule and have the judging and selection of items to go to the State Conference. On December 16 we met with independent judges to select our 8 projects. A total of 23 items were submitted considering all the challenges 2020 brought us. Everyone was disappointed that we were not able to have the State Conference for 2021.

Our County board has been having their monthly meetings. Our county has organized a CCHCE book club for our members. The first book selected was “*The Secret Life of Bees*” by Sue Monk Kidd. Our first meeting to discuss the book is planned in May. We are starting a pen pal program with other counties. All HCE members are welcome to join. Our contact person is Melissa Chitwood, to give her a call with questions, 217/493-4441. Also, the board voted to set up a scholarship program for CCHCE. A committee was appointed and are setting up the scholarship guidelines for two \$500.00 scholarships.

Because of Covid-19 our units were not able to hold their monthly meetings, but our members have continued to support our projects for Family and Community Issues. Three of our units have continued to support Developmental Service Center group homes for the mentally challenged adults in Champaign County. The residents at the group homes are recognized on their birthdays and holidays with gift cards and/or non-food items and needed items for the home. Champaign County HCE is being highlighted as Developmental 20

Service Center partner in their upcoming newsletter. We are also supporting the Foster children program for Champaign County with units donating fleece blankets and needed toddler clothing.

Our county HCE members were very supportive in making masks during this past year. The total masks reported made by our members was 2,835 for our community. Our members made masks for Carle Hospital, child care centers, a local pre-school, veteran's hospital, hospice Hearts, nursing homes, family and friends. I'm sure many more were made by our members. Members also volunteered at Carle hospital as greeters, sent notes and thinking of you cards to friends and nursing homes residents, cooking a meal for neighbors or shut-ins, made calls to check on other members and friends and helped as greeters at the local Covid-19 vaccine centers.

Members are enjoying the webinar lessons given by Extension Educators. Our Extension office mailed out to all our members the handouts and materials for our lessons to be given in 2021. This was very much appreciated by our members

In 2021, our county is celebrating our 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Also, we have three units celebrating 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversaries (Dewey/Fisher Unit, Savoy Unit and Somer Unit). Two units are celebrating 101<sup>st</sup> anniversaries (Philo Unit and Rantoul Unit). This year is the Mahomet unit 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you to our members for all their contributions they have made in making CCHC an ongoing and meaningful organization.

This past year, we all have had to make changes but looking forward to great things in the coming months.

Carol Froeschl,  
Champaign County HCE Public Relations

Don't just fly, Soar!



## ***Macon***

Macon County HCE has not met for many months. Several of our small units have been able to meet at restaurants. Our next big event that we will have is our Spring Meeting at the end of April. We will be limited on the amount of people that can attend, but we are certainly looking forward to being together again.

We will also have a speaker on April 7 to tell us about the many Abraham Lincoln sites that are within a short driving distance. Teresa Churchill was a reporter for our Decatur Herald and Review for many years. We are looking forward to her presentation.

On April 19, we are having our Pillowcase Sewing Day. We have a limited amount who can attend, but we certainly appreciate those people who are willing to assemble, cut, sew and iron these pillowcases. These are usually donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield.

In May, we will have a lesson on "Biscuit Making" by our own Jane Chapman. This should be an interesting and entertaining presentation! Our future lessons are going to be a presentation from WAND, and "Creative Ideas for Sewing with Scraps."

As always, we are forging ahead with as much as we can do at this time. We wish everyone good wishes for continued good health and look forward to this new year and the many activities that we have planned.

## ***Prairie Association***

Coming home from the 2020 conference to the small town of Arthur you get the vibration that something is not like normal. What is normal? In a few days, all will shut-down except

drug stores, grocery, gas, one eating place. Living in a small village in the country we went as we do, except the news kept telling me to stay at home, so I did as much as I could.

Living in an Amish community of 5,000 and they had no church, very few family at funerals- NONE COVID- weddings. Later they had their wedding dinners with their invited guests. If the Amish had a fever they were in isolation for 14 days, than went on with life. In two, three months, they had church services, plus almost back to normal. They were careful, they knew what to do and not to do.

The Sullivan stitchers and the community sewed over 8,000 masks. There were HCE members and non-members. Two ladies are making Easter masks for school children. Bourbon unit have plans to meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. As of now we will be able to start using the new extension office in Arthur starting in April.

The Prairie Association also are still sponsoring DOVE. Sullivan has a small office. This is for abused women and children. Many items are needed from hygiene to clothes, bedding, all items for children to babies, diapers to toys. The items list is long. We have no image of how children are treated with abusiveness. A lot of work to do!

Josephenie Marner  
P.R.

## ***Tazewell***

Greetings from Tazewell County!

Like most of you, we are trying to stay healthy, but still share information with our units. Some units have met in person and others continue to meet via ZOOM.

Vivian Gerrietts, our first vice president, continues to share information on our county HCE Facebook page.

Recently, a Tazewell County resident and member of Illinois Beekeepers, Bill Baker presented a lesson on bees. He spoke about how bees work within their hives and about how important they are for our flowers and our crops. Bill's wife, Kathy, was present and shared recipes using honey as an ingredient. Members attending were given copies of his presentation and her recipes so each may present the lesson to her home unit.

By the time you read this, Tazewell County will have had their annual meeting. We plan to hold our "in person" meeting in an area park. We will continue to follow COVID protocol and hope that the ladies are more comfortable in an outdoor setting.

I continue to pray that everyone is staying healthy and looking forward for great things in the coming months. Here's to hoping we can have our county and 4-H fairs this summer!

Darlene Curry, Publicity



“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”

# DISTRICT 4 NEWS



**DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR — Donna Richards**



Hi, everyone. So excited to be back and able to serve you.

For those who may not know me, let me give a short bio. I am a retired grandmother who lives in Newton which is in Jasper County. I currently serve on our County HCE Board as Secretary. Also, serve as Treasurer for the Ann Crooker St. Clair DAR Chapter, which is in Effingham, Secretary for Newton Women's Club, and a member of my church's Finance Committee. I have two daughters, one lives here in Jasper County and the other lives around the St. Charles, Missouri area. I have two grandsons both are seniors this year. My oldest will graduate from Olivet University, Bourbonnais in May and has been accepted into University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to pursue his master's degree in Architecture this fall. My youngest will graduate from Newton High School in May and has decided to attend Olivet University this fall.

After being off the Board for two years, it will take a little bit of time to get caught up. Please feel free to contact me at 618-554-1790 (if I do not answer, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can) or email me at [dsrichards001@hotmail.com](mailto:dsrichards001@hotmail.com) when you want to schedule my visit to your Annual meetings. I look forward to visiting your counties and to see each of you again.

The March 2021 District newsletter went out around the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please share them with your board and members. If you did not receive one either by email or mail, let me know.

*Donna Richards*  
District 4 Director

**And from your outgoing District 4 Director, Sharon Davis....**



*Hello HCE Members*

*I'm sure you were just as disappointed as I was about having to cancel our Annual Conference in 2021.*

*I know for the Executive Committee it was a hard decision to make but they did want to keep everyone safe. Also, with the expenses it wouldn't of been feasible to do it. So next year can be bigger and we can celebrate even more of being together.*

*The one thing I missed about canceling was not having our District 4 meeting so I could tell everyone goodbye as your District 4 Director and introducing you to Donna Richards, which I'm sure several of you already know her. She served as our Secretary on the State Board earlier.*

*I wish I could have attended your annual meetings last year to tell everyone goodbye but I hope this year you will be able to schedule them and begin meeting again.*

*If you are able to schedule them, be sure to give Donna Richards a call so she can attend and install your officers. She will have all her information in her article so be sure to check it out.*

*I want to wish your new State President Angela Hicks and Donna Richards all the best in the next three years of IAHCE. I know they will do a GREAT job.*

*I'm going to leave you with this quote:*

**"WE CANNOT BECOME WHAT WE WANT BY REMAINING WHAT WE ARE"**

*Max Depree*



## **Clinton**

Clinton County HCE is finally getting to meet in person, s-l-o-w-l-y getting to this point. We are of course socially distancing, wearing mask, sanitizing, and filling out the Extension forms, all in order to meet in person again! Hurray! We missed seeing everyone. We have been meeting sometimes by zoom - but a lot of our members are unable to do so on the computer. And our meeting place is not yet letting us meet inside their facility, so we are finding other meeting places to get together. Where there is a will - - - there is a way! It has been a

l-o-n-g year of this ongoing pandemic. Hoping we never have to do this again. Soon we hope this will all just be a memory. So, we are now trying to decide when we can hold our annual dinner meeting. It is our 75th anniversary and we want to be able to "do it up" right. So, till next time - hopefully when we can report on a successful annual meeting - stay healthy and get those virus vaccinations everyone.

## **Effingham**

Greetings from Effingham County! We missed seeing you at 2021 IAHCE Annual Conference in March but we are looking forward to the District 4 meeting here in Effingham in August. There will be a lot of catching up with friends.

The past few months haven't kept Effingham County from continuing to build their supply of bookmarks, walker caddies and catheter covers. A Butter Braid fund raiser was just completed to build monetary resources for scholarships and projects. Members are beginning to gather in safe environments enjoying getting out and socializing again. It's obvious that members are anxious to get together as they are beginning to plan all sorts of educational and fun activities...so much to do! What to do first!

Here's to enjoying a renewal of our lives and new opportunities for HCE this spring and summer!

Pat Hildebrand  
Effingham County Public Relations

## **Fayette**

### **Fayette County HCE Board Has Set the Annual Meeting Date and Other Exciting News:**

The year 2020 was a rough one for us all. With all the Covid restrictions, cancellations, and shutdowns. Now Spring is here! Aww Spring the time of renewal. Flowers are blooming!!! Less restrictions and things opening, and we can finally be together! So, Fayette County HCE is not wasting any time making plans for 2021 and on into 2022....

Fayette County Association for Home and Community Education has set the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 with a potluck dinner. There will be a business meeting that will include a Celebration of Life for deceased members, vote on the proposed 2021/22 budget and elect officers. Award certificates will be presented to Homemaker of the Year and Certificates of Recognition for members and units. Most of all we will enjoy planning the future events, eating good food, having fellowship with our fellow HCE members.



Fayette County HCE is planning our Annual International Meeting in October and Get Acquainted Day in April for 2021. Our members are planning their County Fair Exhibits and thinking of ways that we can work with the County Fair Board. We are planning to send FCAHCE Representatives to the County Board Meeting to see where we as HCE members can help.

Because the Get-Acquainted Day had been cancelled three times in 2020 and the county not being able to hold any fundraisers in 2020, a Facebook auction of donated items from the members of FCAHCE was held March 8-15. There was a variety of items from slippers to a vintage custom-made mink coat. Let us not forget to mention the jar of canned beets that brought in a little chunk of change. This was the first time FCHCE had ever held an auction on Facebook, but we knew we needed to adapt to all the changes that had been handed to us through 2020 and into 2021. The Facebook auction brought in over \$450.00.

### **St Elmo Unit & Wright's Corner Unit are now one unit:**

Fayette County for several years had 6 units and now we are made up of 5 units. The St. Elmo Unit, Wright's Corner Unit and President Ashley Davis of Fayette County Association for Home and Community Education met on March 23, 2021 the two units discussed merging. Wright's Corner Unit has only four members and St. Elmo has only eight members. Wright's Corner Unit has had the meetings at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesdays in the Loudon Township for several years but now will attend the St Elmo Unit meetings on the fourth Tuesday in the St. Elmo. Both units have been active for several years and thought that since the units were so close in townships that instead of folding the Wright's Corner unit it was a better decision to merge. We will now call them the St Elmo/Wright's Corner Unit starting in June 2021 after our 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. The two units will then pick new unit officers.

This is Fayette County's Bicentennial year. A lot of information has been found about the Fayette County HCE Units. When they started and who was in the units at that time. A picture of a group of ladies calling themselves The Bingham Home Bureau Kitchen Band was found. What fun those ladies were having. Maybe it is time to change things to make them new again.

As, the year 2021 pushes through FCAHCE will continue to work on little fun changes in our County. We have a change in the making and hoping to have it completed by our annual meeting. We are asking our members to submit a suggestion for a name change for our County Newsletter. And we hope to be able to start sharing our newsletter with other counties and the IAHCE State Board soon. Another change we are hoping to have in our county is to have fun & upbeat new names for our Units. When FCHCE was organized the units were named for the townships. But who says we cannot have a little fun? Stay tuned for the updates.

Happy Spring to you all from  
FCAHCE  
FCAHCE Public Relations Anna  
Jean



## **Macoupin**

Happy Spring to everyone throughout the state of Illinois. I hope all of you are experiencing a delightful spring like we are here. Once we got through our two horrid weeks of winter, the weather has gotten better and better. Oh, how I love the sunshine and the colors of nature!!! Macoupin County is gradually getting back into the swing of things in 2021. We have been fortunate to have our monthly board meetings at the extension office as well as our monthly lesson training sessions. The extension meeting room is large so we are able to social distance appropriately. We continue to keep in touch through texting and emails. Many of the units have started meeting in churches or halls rather in their homes for safety reasons.



We did have to cancel our Annual Meeting which is held the end of May each year due to Covid gathering restrictions. Our energy will now go to plan Macoupin County H.C.E.'s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party which will be celebrated at Founder's Day in October. (Actually this year will be 91 years but we were not able to celebrate it in 2020. The board hopes to make this a very special event for our members.

Many of our members are accumulating volunteer hours by helping others during this pandemic. A great number of members have made masks for various places, some have been making afghans, neck scarves, lap robes, etc. for shut-ins. Some also have been delivering cookies and soups to individuals. Many deliver Meals on Wheels and work at their local food pantry. This picture was sent to me by Joyce Duelm of the Mt. Olive unit. Joyce has been spending a lot of her "stay at home" time, crocheting various items for nursing homes and homebound individuals. Joyce's granddaughter is a student at Marquette University in Milwaukee and volunteered (when it was safe) at a Veteran's Home. These are some of the afghans Joyce sent her to take to the home for the residents.

Carol Rimar  
Macoupin County H.C.E.  
Public Relations



"Like a butterfly I am growing and changing and finding my colors in life. I am finding my wings so I can fly and soon be on my way."

## **Madison**

Last year seems like a blur, it's hard to remember what our county even did and to be honest, it wasn't much. We had to cancel our biggest fundraiser of the year, Christmas in November, due to COVID restrictions. We instead came up with an online auction, allowing members and even non-members to purchase items and have them delivered or mailed. All proceeds went into our general fund and we were able to raise over \$400! It was very exciting and for the most part it was easy to put on.

We asked current members to donate items and those we took photos of. We tried having one sole person responsible for collecting the items, taking the photos, and getting them to the purchasers or other board members who could help distribute them.

Items ranged from figurines, wreaths, signs, and baskets to gift cards, furniture, and gift certificates. The auction was held online through Facebook and we used a posting app called "Post My Party" to make the posts throughout the auction so one person didn't have to go in and do it all. It did take some time on the back end to organize the posts and photos on the post my party website, but that was easily done prior to the auction in strides.

We were thinking about doing another online type of auction in the Spring, but alas it is Spring and that has fallen at the waist side. We do have a pizza fundraiser coming up in June though. A local Mazzios, is allowing us to come in and help serve on a Monday night. All tips will go to us and a percentage of sales from those people dining that night.

We have cancelled our annual May trip, but our going to be doing an ice cream social instead. We plan on playing a few games and having pie to go with our ice cream. We are having an annual meeting which will be held on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have a plant sale, silent auction, and entertainment by one of our members.

That's it for now. See you in August at District Workshops!

Emily McDowell

## DISTRICT 5 NEWS



### DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR — Carol Harms

My first year as a district director certainly didn't go the way I planned. I was really looking forward to visiting each of my counties at their annual meetings, and we all know how that went! It is still sad to think we could not have our state conference this year, but I understand why it couldn't be held. I respect that many of you did not feel comfortable registering for the conference. I am seeing light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, and I think our district workshop on Tuesday, August 10, in Effingham will be fantastic! More information will be available in June.

I hope that all the county officers received packets from their corresponding state officer or education director, either via email or by US mail. If you did not, please contact that state officer/director to let her know. If you need any assistance, you can contact me also.

I was honored to attend the annual meeting and install the officers of the Perry County HCE on March 24. It was a pleasure to meet with Jane Chapman and her members. Jane shared a lesson on types of fruit desserts, so our dessert after the meal consisted of samples of NINE desserts - fruit crisp, crumble, slump, grunt, pandowdy, you name it – and they were all delicious.

I hope other District 5 counties are planning their annual meetings. It may take some time to find a location that is willing to commit to allowing a group to come in, but when your leadership can happen, please let me know so I can put your date in my calendar. I can't wait to see you.

Have a great spring!

Carol Harms



### **Franklin**

Like many of you the past year and more we have been "dead". Our Board tried to meet a few times, but when the Ext. Office shut down, no meetings there, all else stopped. We are trying to get organized and it isn't easy getting the ladies to come out now. Our first Lesson is scheduled for later in April. We didn't get reports mailed in and we could have added more to the list of masks made. Five of our members made masks, by count at least 1,000 for friends, school, churches and who ever asked for one. Two made dresses to put in Operation Christmas Child boxes. One of our

members Joyce Lee makes as many as 100 dresses each year. She has also traveled to the distribution centers and helped pack them for delivery to other countries. One member made Christmas Stockings which we give out every year with lots of items in them. We started this to take care of our Veterans in "Franklin Co. nursing homes. In 2020, few veterans were named and we filled stockings for those with no family, even giving each a fleece blanket. I was told they were much appreciated as a lot of people don't get visitors and no family. We had a fund raiser early in 2020 which gave us funds to donate to the food pantry and to Operation Christmas Tree. We had to cancel our Christmas Ideas Day because of Covid, but are planning it this year. I don't know how many members in our County was affected with the Covid, but this person was and ended up in the hospital. It has slowed me down a whole lot. SO I encourage all who haven't to get the vaccine.

Barbara Spencer, President & PR



## **Jackson**

Our members continue to respect the stay at home/social distancing guidelines. It remains hard not seeing our friends at the trainings and Unit meetings. We miss so many of the activities. We have however, stayed busy with making masks, and our normal sewing projects, painting crafts and checking out new recipes. We continue to learn more how to master Zoom meetings. Our Jackson County HCE Board continues to plan and schedule our Annual HCE Meeting and the International Lesson. Our Extension Office remains closed. Monthly Newsletters are becoming a challenge for us. Our pick-up lessons are also on hold. So many things we took for granted, we now have to have a Wait n See if we can get it done. We have missed our District meetings and Annual State Conference. Both are so hard as we all look forward to visits with other county members around the state.

Our Jackson County HCE and the IACHE FB pages fill our days with news of our friends and how they are spending time. I see members who go on line just to hear from friends. We have delved into learning about our new theme with Butterflies and change. **My, how we have learned how to change and adapt!** We are now turning to the Vaccine and getting people scheduled. We volunteer to assist others with driving others to the Vaccine centers. We pray for the vaccine and masks to assist us in the numbers of the virus becoming less. The Jackson County Health Department will be a resource for us to volunteer once we complete our second vaccines. Once the next phase begins there will be days, they do not have enough volunteers to assist them with people getting thru the lines for the vaccine.

We sit quietly with sewing, and art projects and watch the snow and ice as it comes down. Our animals quietly sit with us and enjoy how we now spend more time with them. My dog challenges me to take that morning walk every day. We are in the midst of checking our seeds to see what we can plant next year to ensure more beautiful gardens in the coming season. Gardening magazines are piling up beside our chairs. We visit our neighbors and friends outside letting them know they are not alone. We leave little gifts and thoughtful items for children we know outside their doorways as a surprise. We mail small packages to our grandchildren that we have not seen for some time. We think of how their memories will be of this alone time. We adore watching our neighbor children's photos on Facebook as they build snow caverns and ice sculptures. We think about our friends at church and hope they are doing well. We try our best to keep them in our hearts. I think many of our hearts are growing during this time as we check in with friends. We love receiving a short note, e-mail, FB Like, FB Comment or even learning to master that (FB GIF feature) allows us to keep in contact with friends that are far away. Birthdays on FB allow us to show our friends they are not forgotten. We are turning our attention now to Easter and the celebration of Spring time. We miss all of those extra family hugs and the large gatherings. We remember our generations and gatherings of our grandparents. Realizing we are now the seniors. So, until our next gathering, stay safe, stay strong and know that we will have that get together and all of us will enjoy that first gathering of HCE friends with food, friends, recipes, lessons and most of all with **Love**.

Respectfully Submitted

Jean Conrod

Jackson County Public Relations Chair



"Live as though life was created for you!"

## **Jefferson**

Greetings Friends

Spring has sprung here in Jefferson County. We hope all of you are enjoying the changes in the scenery; the weather has yet to make up its mind.

None of us here in Jefferson County had a normal year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause turmoil here as well as the entire world. We've all had to adapt to changes in our personal and work lives and our daily routines. How appropriate our 2021 theme "Changes bring growth" turned out to be. The good news is that we can use this pandemic to change and use the changes to grow. Possibly, become more flexible and understanding; also, appreciate the things once taken for granted. Think of it as a chance to do something different.

As our membership gets vaccinated, we are trying to maintain some of our normal activities. We are continuing to make quilts for The Amy Center for Abused Children. To date, we have delivered 12 with more ready to be delivered soon. We also delivered magazines to a local nursing home for their residents. We started a new project in hopes of helping our elderly and shut-ins. We mailed out over 60 Valentines to our friends and neighbors. As a fundraiser, we were able to participate in our community yard sales on March 19th and 20th with 12 of our members working at the sale. We are again selling geraniums and hanging baskets of petunia which will be distributed in mid-May.



Some of our units will be holding socially distanced meetings again soon.

We continue to communicate with members through our Facebook page. Several very interesting and helpful articles on planting have been posted, as well as some webinars our members may enjoy.

We hope that all the April showers will bring us an abundance of beautiful May flowers.

Happy Spring and Stay safe.

Barb Shurtz PR



"Anything is possible if you just believe."

"Dreams are whispers from the soul."

"Love is the most precious thing you can find to give."

## Massac

Good day everyone! Massac County showed some love to our community! We gave Valentines to residents at Southgate Nursing Home and Senior Living, Misty Meadows Senior Living, and Metropolis Nursing and Rehabilitation. Some did not want pictures taken so we took a picture of the facility. All facilities were extremely grateful we thought of their residents! Massac County HCE Homemakers is a great way to be involved in your community by sharing kindness, compassion, and His love. (Thank you Melissa Simpson for delivering the Valentines and for writing the article.)



New Frontiers Unit made 30 Easter Baskets to be delivered to Hope Unlimited for kids. They love doing this project each year! Dorothy Holt is their leader.

## Massac HCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Massac County HCE offers education scholarships to students from the two county high schools: Massac County High School and Joppa High School. The scholarship recipients will be recognized at the county-wide Rotary/Kiwanis Scholarship Awards Program on April 22.



Dorothy Burklow, member of the Volleville HCE Unit in Massac County, has completed 44 puzzles in the past year. Great job Dorothy!! Dorothy celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday with her family at an outdoor pizza party. IAHCE Members what are some things you have done?



## ***Pulaski-Alexander***

The year 2020 became a very challenging year. Both Pulaski and the Shawnee Units met in January. Plans were made for Conference for three from the Pulaski Unit to attend. We continue to collect soda tab, canceled postage stamps, P. Farms milk tops and Best Choice food labels.

Officers of the Board were installed by District Director Janel Kassing. She introduced the new Director, Carol Horn. A brief meeting was held after brunch. The annual Hillbilly Dinner was the main topic of business. This fundraiser is to be able to award scholarships to graduating seniors from local schools.

February meetings consisted of working out details, etc. for the April Hillbilly Dinner. Lessons on "Why 2020 is Leap Year" were given. The Shawnee unit took Valentine treats to a nursing home where several of their members reside. They also collected and took Kleenex to classrooms at Century school.

For our March meeting, fifteen members had lunch in the cafeteria at Shawnee College. A brief meeting was conducted. We then attended a session presented by Craig Bradley on Astronomy. We learned of the top astronomy events of the year, the phases of the moon, the eclipse, the waxing and waning of the moon, the meteorites and how to 'farm by the moon'.

They put two baskets of books in the silent auction, and our county won fourth place on our Year Book. June Badgley and Betty Shumaker prepared this book. The display of lighthouses was

very  
impressive!



## White

Our White County H.C.E. Members have had a difficult year. We have lost members, family, and friends to Covid, but we have been there for each other and we are looking forward to working together with a strong and steady heart for the good of our community again this year.

We must continue to believe and work together as a team in order to see continued H.C.E. Membership grow. We have to remain positive and continue spreading the word about all the great work our H.C.E. Members do for each other and for our community activities that would not happen without our help in their time of need.

We had our first board meeting this month and we are positive we can make this a great year, working together for the good of our community. Thanks to all who are willing to make a difference in our H.C.E. Organization in the following months.

H.C.E. Public Relations  
Fran Matheny

Photos are of our new county board members, installed in October of 2020.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Below is correspondence between Pat Weitzmann and Rutt Tuvike and also correspondence from Sara Kenny.

Hello Pat!

I wish you and all the women from IAHCE Happy New Year.

It is so good to hear that John is feeling better!

My first granddaughter graduated High School last year, it was definitely a highlight of my year. Now she is studying meat product technology. My son and her are doing smoked ham and other meat products for sale now. They truly are making good and tasty artisan smoked meats.

At our home, we built a small go ape trail for kids to climb and have a air ride. It has been a hit among my grandchildren.

Covid has left a trace in our farm too, there has not been many events this year and it has been rather quiet. But all is well that ends well and the events we had have been a really memorable to organize.

Best greetings from Estonia,  
Rutt

February 2021 - Pat Weitzmann Also got an email from Rutt Tuvike in February 2021 saying that the Estonia Independence Day celebrating was very subdued. People could only gather in very small groups due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

**Sara Kenny** To Pat...

Dear Pat

“Oh my gosh, it is TWO YEARS since you and John were here!! What a great time we had! I was thinking of you the other day when I went on a trip with the CWA Education and Development Group to a couple of branches in the south. We stayed at Augusta and had breakfast at the cafe near the lighthouse. .... It was a beautiful sparkling day and the waters of the two oceans – Great Southern and Indian – were just gracefully making waves. I hadn't been there since your visit.

What's happening with CWA? Well, we had a South Pacific Area Conference via Zoom which was quite an interesting exercise! Last week my friend Faye and I plus a couple of other members ran a stall promoting CWA at an event in Perth. It was called 'Farmer on Your Plate' and had a lot of stalls with rural produce to sell or taste. We had a day before planning a walk in Kings Park as a state event to raise money for ACWW, then visiting the State Office to collect everything we needed for the stall. It was quite fun, the highlight being a chat to the Governor of WA and the Minister for Agriculture. We handed out fresh cooked pikelets which was quite a drawcard for the city people! The Women Walk the World event is in Kings Park on April 29th.

On the local CWA front we are busy with choir practice for the Choir and Drama Festival. I haven't sorted the Movement to Music, Verse and Skit entries yet. Our members went to a couple of computer lessons and an excursion to The Gravity Centre which is astro/science facility at Gingin about 1 1/2 hrs away. Our next event is a walk for Women Walk the World.

In a week we will be starting shearing. Todd, the grandson here, has reinvented himself as a shearer and is loving the physical challenge of the strenuous work. His best is 125 sheep in a day which is great for a beginner. We will be shearing about 5300 sheep at this stage, so that will take a couple of weeks and keep Mike and Jasper busy! We had a couple of storms which made all the grass grow, but it's dead again now, or eaten, and Mike is feeding out lupins. We are once again waiting for that elusive good winter break when rain falls regularly, but it won't be over Easter as it's still quite hot. We have 38C today – like 100F! I have hopefully been cleaning gutters!

Mike's bowls team was, for the first time EVER, in the Grand Final of the local bowls league. They played at Jurien Bay on such a good day for onlookers that we had the whole family come and watch! First Brooke and Ella (Todd's girlfriend) played in a hockey match, Todd played in a football match and Mike the bowls! The bowling team were devastated as they lost by one point, but I think that was an amazing result! Todd and the girls won!"

Note to reader: Jasper is a Kelpie breed sheep herding dog.



**Happy Christmas**

**Sara Kenny** <sarakenny@westnet.com.au> Dec 22, 2020, 11:51 PM

Hullo dear Pat and John

.....I really liked the photo you sent, so here is one of Mike and a group of friends (minus me because I took the pic) having Christmas drinks while we watched the confluence of Saturn and Jupiter, an astronomical event which happens every 400 years or so. Mal Wilkins (where we had the bonfire party) brought his theodolite so we could see it better. While we had an amazing close up of a wind tower, mal couldn't find the star cluster!! It was lucky we could see it with our own eyes or through binoculars. Anyway, it was a lovely evening to be out in the paddock with a few drinks.

I have helped with two Christmas Concert plays, the Badgingarra one and the Watheroo one – my daughter Jane teaches there. Both involved the whole school from the 11 or 12 year olds to 4 year olds and were lots of fun. Both are really little schools with between 13 and 17 students. At Badgy, one of the little angel story tellers got stage fright and left the other characters waiting blankly on the stage until a teacher had the brainwave of getting another angel to haul Miss Stage Fright on, tears and all! A drink of water cheered her up and the show went on. Luckily, she didn't miss another beat – but the mishaps are always what make school plays so much fun.

Last night was our community Christmas Carol service. I thought you might like to have a laugh with AUSSIE JINGLE BELLS

Dashing through the bush  
In a rusty Holden ute  
Kicking up the dust, Esky in the boot  
Kelpie by my side  
Singing Christmas songs  
It's summer time and I am in  
My singlet, shorts and thongs.

CHORUS

Oh, jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,  
Jingle all the way  
Christmas in Australia  
On a scorching summer's day, hay  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,  
Christmas time is beaut  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a rusty Holden ute,



Engine's getting hot,  
Dodge the kangaroos  
Swaggie climbs aboard  
He is welcome too  
All the family's there  
Sitting by the pool  
Christmas Day the Aussie way  
By the barbecue



CHORUS

Comes the afternoon  
Grandpa has a doze  
The kids and Uncle Bruce  
Are swimming in their clothes



The time comes round to go  
We take the family snap  
Then pack the car and all shoot through  
Before the washing up.



#### CHORUS

It is a bit of fun to sing!!

..... We have minimal restrictions here, but let any 'outsiders' try to come in to Western Australia.....!

All West Aussies are meant to have an app on their phone which scans a QR code at every venue they visit. It's that or sign a form everywhere – a coffee shop, church, hall – and even our town Christmas Party! I thought I was doing really well with mine until the funeral. I asked the funeral director where the code was and she replied, "on the wall." We were standing in a sort of arcade outside a coffee shop, so I looked all round. A young man saw me looking puzzled and pointed out the square of dots and dashes on the wall with a historical display. I aimed my phone, but 'Check in Failed' appeared. I tried again. Same result. Third time was no better! What had gone wrong with my IT skills? I turned around and Viola! There was the code on a piece of paper stuck in the corner of two pillars. I had been trying to connect to the historical website!! Oh well, live and learn!



## ACWW USA Area Newsletter Winter 2021

Cold dry greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

I wish our area had some of the wet cold stuff that other areas of the Nation have an overabundance of. We have the cold but, as of yet, very little snow and very little rain. We do need it so badly or we may have another summer and fall fire season like we had last year. Those of you that are getting a lot of snow and cold please stay safe and comfortable.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and were able to spend some quality time visiting with the most important people in your lives, whether it was in person or virtually. Scott and I spent over three weeks in December dealing with COVID. It was the sickest I ever remember being and I hope you all escape getting it.

I'm sure that by now society leaders and individual members have received the letter from the ACWW home office about the Special World Conference 2021. Due to the uncertainty of the path of the virus and the increase in infection rates in many countries, the board thought it prudent to reschedule the 2022 Triennial World Conference to May of 2023. The Special World conference being called is to vote on a proposal from the Board of Trustees. If you are a paid individual member, or a President or Chairman of your Society and have not received the notice, PLEASE, contact me as soon as possible. Please make sure your dues are current so you will be allowed to vote on this very important issue.

In my fall newsletter, I shared information about the December 2020 "Cup of Coffee" challenge, where ACWW asked each of us to donate \$30.00, (or the cost of one cup of coffee each week for a total of 10 weeks) to ACWW to help off set the shortage of Pennies for Friendship donations. I hope many of you participated in that. We are now being asked to support a new appeal. It is called "2021-Secure ACWW for Future Generations". Here is a quote from the ACWW website "The global impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic has been stark and distressing. All over the world our members have been affected and their lives have changed. ACWW has done it's best to maintain the network of membership for future generations, and keep our members working together for a better future."

The information goes on to explain that as many groups have stopped holding meetings, donations to Pennies for Friendship have dropped drastically. We all know that the PFF fund is the enabling fund for ACWW. It is the fund that keeps us going, it enables the Board to meet and engage with members in their areas, it enables the office, which we all know is the HUB of ACWW, to function, it maintains the staff, and most importantly it helps facilitate our global network. Each member is being asked to raise and donate \$69.35=50 BPS. The target date for this fundraiser is April 29, 2021, ACWW Day. Please do what you can to help this organisation we all love and are so grateful for to stay solvent and growing.

In January, our World President Magdie de Kock, held a virtual "Afternoon Tea with the World President". I couldn't join in person, but I was able to view it while getting ready for work that morning. What fun to hear Magdie talk about ACWW and share some of the happenings in ACWW. We will have another opportunity to join Magdie for a cup of tea, Tuesday, February 23. There will be two times scheduled. The first is 6:30am London time, and the second is 2:30pm London time. (I'm not even going to try and figure out all of the times for the US!!) Please see all of the login information on the ACWW Facebook page. If you need any other help finding the facebook page please email me, my info is at the end of this newsletter. You can still view the first afternoon tea on the Facebook page.

Many of us have never had the opportunity to attend a United Nations Meeting. This year you will all have that wonderful opportunity! All members have been invited to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It is being held virtually on March 18, 2021. The title of this year's meeting is "Rural Women's Role in Global Citizenship". Again see the ACWW Facebook page for details. This probably the only time we can attend for free!

I know that the worldwide pandemic has been hard on all of us, our groups, and organisations. I am so grateful that we have the technology to be able to hold conference calls, ZOOM or other virtual meetings. It gives us the opportunity to keep our organisations moving along. I'm pleased to hear about groups that are meeting in person where possible, about groups that are having virtual meetings and sharing information that way. I know that in areas where the Extension Service is still actively helping our members, they are holding virtual lessons and workshops for the members. In my state we are holding a state wide workshop/lesson once a month. It has been fun to connect with members we usually only see a couple of times a year.

As I prepare to write my year end report for 2020 I would ask that the society presidents/chairmen please send me a report that includes but is not limited to: how your group is meeting (if they are), what lessons/workshops are being shared and how; what ACWW related information is shared and how are you fund raising for ACWW. What are your goals to move the work of ACWW along and what I can do to help you spread the word about the purpose of ACWW, how I can help you find the information on the website dealing with the work on ACWW resolutions and other work of ACWW.

I have a beautiful Tree Of Life pendant that I wear daily. As I look at it, I see the intertwined roots making the trunk strong to support the large canopy of intertwined branches. I see those roots as our organisational beginnings, the trunk as our board and great office staff, and the branches are our many thousands of societies, the local leaders and members. How blessed we are to have the full tree to support us and protect those who are not as fortunate we are. It takes us all to make the work go and make the organisation grow. We have a great opportunity to make this organisation grow this year as we work to support each other. I would like to issue each of us a challenge to get one new person as an individual member of ACWW. Start with someone who is a member of your local group, introduce them to the many things that ACWW does around the world. Ask them if they would like to become a part of an organisation that gives women and families an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that can help them become self-sufficient and able to care for themselves.

Many years ago, I was given a book called "The Butterfly Effect" by Andy Andrews. Have you had the chance to read it? I love the thoughts and theory put forth in the book. It begins by asking "How significant is my life? Do I make a difference? When I move...when I act...when I do something...does the universe notice? DO I REALLY MATTER?" The book ends with "The very beating of your heart has meaning and purpose. Your actions have value far greater than silver or gold. Your life and what you do with it today...MATTERS FOREVER". You, all of you, matter. Your life matters as a person, a leader, a teacher, a member, and most of all you matter for all the good you are doing. Thank you so much for all you do in service to others.

I wish you all the best for this coming year as we work together. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please do not respond to this email, but use [usa@acww.org.uk](mailto:usa@acww.org.uk)

Have a great day and remember "YOU MATTER"!



## AWARDS

**BEST OF SHOW- Will be Announced at District Meetings! Be sure to attend!**

## WALL OF HONOR - 2020 EDUCATION AWARDS

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT- Sonya Bishop, IAHCE Director**

**Textiles and Clothing:**

*Jefferson County (District 5) and McLean County (District 2)*

**Heritage Skills:**

*Monroe County (District 5) and McLean County (District 2)*

**Special Activities:**

*Lake County (District 2) and McLean County (District 2)*

**GRAND AWARD: MCLEAN COUNTY (District 5)**

Wonderful job including the children in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and 4-H in community service for the military. Great pictures and paper articles.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES- Eleanor Gregory, IAHCE Director**

**Family and Living, Safety:**

*Kane County (District 2) and Jefferson County (District 5)*

**Health, Food, and Nutrition:**

*Massac County (District 5)*

**Citizenship, Environment:**

*Kankakee County (District 2), Jefferson County (District 5), and DuPage County (District 2)*

**Special Activities:**



**"Faith makes all things possible"**



DuPage County (District 2), Perry County (District 5), and McLean County (District 2)

**INTERNATIONAL- Cara Ausmus, IAHCE Director**

**Country of Study:**

*Mercer County (District 1) and Massac County (District 5)*

**Other Country of Study:**

*McLean County (District 2)*

**International Event:**

*Perry County (District 5) and Madison County (District 4)*



**INTERNATIONAL (Friendship Projects Fund)- Cara Ausmus, IAHCE Director**

**District Winner Per Capita:**

*District 1- Warren County*

*District 2- LaSalle County*

*District 3- Edgar County*

*District 4- Macoupin County*

*District 5- Williamson County*



**State Winner Per Capita:**

*District 1- Warren County - \$6.85*

*District 2- LaSalle County- \$7.38 and Lake County- \$7.12*

*District 3- Edgar County- \$6.09*

**Top total Donations by District:**

*District 1- Rock Island*

*District 2- Lake*

*District 3- Champaign*

*District 4- Macoupin*

*District 5- Williamson*



**JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER AS WE  
HOST THE ACWW CONFERENCE IN  
EFFINGHAM!**



**Country Women's Council USA**

**78th General Meeting  
Country Women's Council, USA  
and ACWW USA Area Meeting  
September 13-15, 2021  
United We Stand  
Holiday Inn & Thelma Keller  
Convention Center  
Effingham, Illinois**

**For more information or to  
register please visit:**

[CWC/ACWW Meeting | Country Women's Council USA \(cwcusa.org\)](http://CWC/ACWW Meeting | Country Women's Council USA (cwcusa.org))

**Statewide Top County Donations:**

*District 1- Rock Island - \$505.09*

*District 2- Lake- \$768.93*

*District 3- Champaign - \$590.28*

*District 4- Macoupin County - \$1,102.76*

*District 5- Madison- \$865.77*



**PUBLIC RELATIONS- Emily McDowell, IAHC Director**

**Special Activities:**

*District 1- Stephenson County*

*District 2- McLean County*

*District 3- Edgar County*

*District 5- Massac County*



**CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS- Ashley Davis, IAHC Director**

**County w/Highest Number of Hours Reported:**

*District 1 – Warren, 8,189*

*District 2 – McLean, 17,038*

*District 3- Champaign, 14,747*

*District 4 -Macoupin, 13,372*

*District 5 -Jackson, 8,261*



**County w/Highest Percentage Participating:**

*District 1 – Mercer 94.7%*

*District 2/3 – Grundy, 96.70%*

*District 4 -Adams, 74.40%*

*District 5 -McLean, 91.60%*

*District 6 -Macoupin, 70.20%*

*District 7 -Williamson, 96.80%*



The National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) invites you to their 22<sup>nd</sup> annual conference!



**22nd ANNUAL NVON CONFERENCE**

**Be the Sunshine-Make a Difference**

**July 20-22, 2021**

**Owensboro Convention Center**

**Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn  
Owensboro, Kentucky**

**For more information or to register please visit:**

[www.nvon.org/nvon-conference](http://www.nvon.org/nvon-conference)

**Don't miss this year's District Meetings!**

**These meetings will be a mini version of our annual conference that didn't take place this year.**

**At each district meeting we will**

**~Present Awards**

**~Recognize the Great American Family Nominees from that district**

**~Recognize those counties that gained new members**

**~Recognize those individuals or counties that supported their local communities with the making of Covid- 19 masks during the duration of the pandemic**

**Hope to see you there!**

**County w/Highest Number of Members Reporting:**

*District 1 – Mercer, 65%*

*District 2 – McLean, 100% and Kankakee, 100%*

*District 3 -Morgan, 86%*

*District 4 -Fayette, 71%*

*District 5 -Jefferson, 77%*



**County w/Highest HCE Hours Reported:**

*District 1 – JoDavieess, 1,549*

*District 2 – McLean, 6,712*

*District 3 -Champaign, 4,424*

*District 4 -Fayette, 4,1,76*

*District 5 – Jefferson, 3,193*

**Member w/Highest HCE Hours Reported Per District**

*District 1 – Janet Malone, 483 (Knox)*

*District 2– Sandy Henke, 860 (Lake)*

*District 3 -Mary Ann Rinckenberger, 1,072 (Champaign)*

*District 4 -Rosie Kramer, 626 (Effingham)*

*District 5 -Jean Conrad, 1,405 (Jackson)*

**County with the Highest Hours Making Covid 19 Masks**

*District 1 – Rock Island, 1,150*

*District 2– McLean, 1,057*

*District 3 -Champaign, 2,973*

*District 4 -Macoupin, 2,000*

*District 5 – Williamson, 1,800*

**County with the Highest Number of Covid-19 Masks Made Per District**

*District 1 – Fulton, 1,7*

**WAYS YOU CAN STAY INVOLVED THIS SUMMER!**

~Host an ice cream social – invite members and non members so you can recruit new members!

~Plan a few stay cations in luau of your county trip. Visit a local town that your members and guests can drive easily to. Give everyone passports and have them visit each place in the passport for a special prize at the end if they visit each location!

~Host an outdoor game night at a park. Play games such as croquet for older members but also some newer games such as bags or horseshoes for the younger crowds.

~Make county HCE shirts and have your members purchase them for a small fee. Have them wear these to kids or grandkids sporting events, fundraisers, festivals, and other events to promote your organization. It will get the conversation going to those that don't know who we are and possibly get new members!

~Set up a membership booth at a local fair or outdoor event.



District 2– McLean, 2,955

District 3 -Champaign, 1,682

District 4 -Macoupin, 2,185

District 5 – Jefferson, 4,979



**Member with the Highest Number of Covid19 Masks Made per District**

District 1 – Dean Maas, 1,700 (Fulton)

District 2– Candance Theden, 709 (McLean)

District 3 -Mary Ann Rinkenberger, 2,091 (Champaign)

District 4 -Sandra Dial, 500 (Jersey) and Bonnie Watkins, 500 (Jersey)

District 5 -Stella Farmer, 2,625 (Jefferson)



**Member with the Highest Number of Hours making Covid-19 Masks**

District 1 – Marilyn Thoren, 280 (Stephenson)

District 2– Linda Vercler, 396 (Livingston)

District 3 -Mary Ann Rinkenberger, 1,016 (Champaign)

District 4 -Sandra Dial, 500 (Jersey) and Bonnie Watkins, 500 (Jersey)

District 5 -Stella Farmer, 1,800 (Williamson)

**MEMBERSHIP- Norma Korte, IAHCE Director**

**Net Gain:**

District 1 – Mercer, 2.78%

District 2 – Lake, 10.20%

District 3-Edgar, 12.77%

District 4 -Lawrence, 4.44%

District 5 -Pulaski/Alexander, 11.53%



**Most Members Gained:**

District 2– Livingston with 31 new members and Lake with 22 new members

District 2- 67 new members

District 5- 45 new members



### **Membership Activities:**

*Perry County, District 5* – had a member retention and growth program to educate the community about HCE activities

### **Special Membership Activity:**

*McLean County, District 2*- Promoted HCE through display at the OSF Woman’s Health Fair event.

*District 5-McLean*- Held a membership and friendship tea to encourage new members.

*District 7* -Promoted HCE and educational opportunity through trips for HCE members and guests.

## **SUPPORT FUND**

A local children’s home, Spero Family Services, sponsors a Festival of Trees event every November as a fundraiser. When we saw an article in the newspaper in October 2019, we thought it might be a good idea to donate a tree. Not only were we donating to a worthy cause but this would be a new avenue for promoting and advertising HCE. We decided to decorate our tree in a Lighthouse theme since our theme for 2020 was “Power of the Past, Beacon to the Future”. One of our board members has an embroidery machine and she made 25 different lighthouses on blue fabric. We sewed felt on as backing and pinked the edges. We also made other ornaments in keeping with the lighthouse theme. Two of our board members visited Ireland in late October and were able to find a Christmas ornament there with a lighthouse on it.



Another board member made a tree skirt in white, turquoise, and purple with Jefferson County HCE on it. We added a purple bow at the top of the tree since purple is our HCE color.

The trees were on display at our local Granada Theater in Mt. Vernon for 3 days. During this time all the donated trees were viewed by hundreds of people. We made a sign with a list of our activities and events and the sign was posted at the base of our tree. We also had flyers available which could be taken by anyone who was interested in membership. We were later told by the Spero personnel there was lots of interest in HCE and several people took the flyers.

We were very pleased when our State President, Jane Chapman, wanted to purchase our tree so it could be displayed at the 2020 State Conference. Jefferson County was honored to have our tree on the stage at State Conference and we hope everyone who attended Conference enjoyed seeing it. Jane had a couple of other places where she planned to display the tree.



However, due to Covid, those events were cancelled for 2020. Hopefully, they will return in 2021 and the tree can be on display again.

Jefferson County was honored to be awarded the Support Fund grant for this project.



## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

### IAHCE-DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

August 10<sup>th</sup> - Districts 4 & 5 - St. John's Lutheran Church, 901 W Jefferson, Effingham

August 11<sup>th</sup> - District 3 - Tentatively Southern View Chapel, Springfield, IL

August 12<sup>th</sup> - Districts 1 & 2 - Tentatively Sycamore United Methodist Church, Sycamore, IL

IAHCE WEEK - October 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

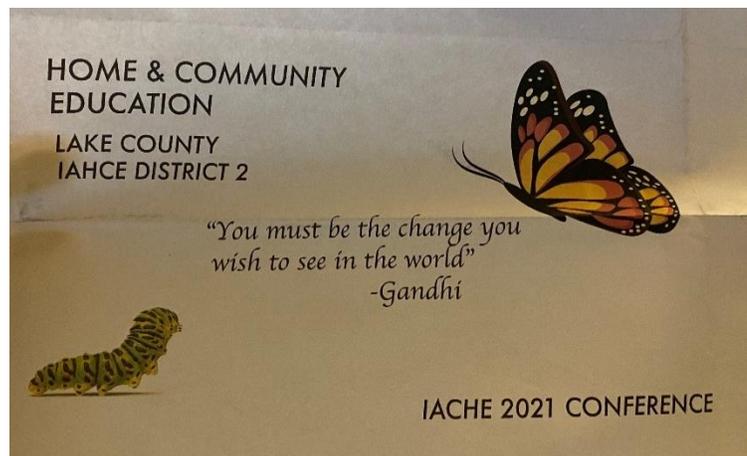
IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - March 15-17, 2022 Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham

### NVON (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK INC)

July 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Owensboro Convention Center, Owensboro Kentucky

### CWC USA/ACWW USA AREA MEETING

September 13-15, 2021-  
Thelma Keller Convention Center. Effingham, IL





*Change Is To Grow*

*McLean County Units*

Dale  
Downs  
Dry Grove  
Sustaining  
Eastiders  
Night Owls  
Towanda



Find out more about us on the web:  
<http://www.mcleanhce.org>

Like us on Facebook:  
McLean-County Association for Home and Community Education

*Grow Is To Become*

*Change Is To Grow*  
IAHCE



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY HCE  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1921 - 2021  
HOME, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, LEARNING



*Grow Is To Become*  
Effingham 2021

HAVE FUN AT IAHCE 97th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021  
LEARN GROW CHANGE BECOME



7 UNITS  
BUSY BEES PROSPECT PARK  
BUTTERWORTH RIVERDALE  
CORDOVA TOWN AND COUNTRY  
ZUMA MAIL BOX MEMBERS  
90 MEMBERS STRONG

COUNTY OFFICERS  
DIANE WOLF, MIKE AND PHYLLIS  
MULLETT, KIM ROWLAND, ROSE  
NASS, DONNA DUAL, EMMA HOKE  
NANCY EDLUND, DEBBIE MARXEN  
EVELYN OLSEN, SHARON HOUGH

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 19, 2021 9:00 to 1:00  
CHRIST CHURCH, 1717 8th AVE, MOLINE, IL



Macon County HCE looks forward to:

GROWING,  
CHANGING,  
and BECOMING

an even better group as we

WELCOME

Christian County ladies into our  
membership.

Best Wishes for a good conference  
and a great year!



Effingham 2021  
Congratulations on the 97th  
Annual IAHCCE Conference!

To change is to grow



To grow is to become

From the members of  
McHenry County HCE



# DISTRICT 5

- Jefferson
- Hamilton
- White
- Franklin
- Perry
- Randolph
- Monroe
- Jackson
- Williamson
- Union
- Johnson
- Pulaski-Alexander
- Massac

ready to **CHANGE** with the times  
so that we may **GROW** today  
and **BECOME** the HCE of the future



Memory Box and Sympathy Gift Collection

*A flower's beauty is temporary. Give a gift that lasts forever.*

The Comforting Keepsakes Memory Box and Sympathy Gift Collections are a unique alternative to the classic floral arrangement. Made from the finest wood and craftsmanship, our boxes are built to be treasured for generations, and our sympathy gifts designed to provide guidance to the bereaved.

To order a custom box or sympathy gift, please visit: [www.comfortingkeepsakes.com](http://www.comfortingkeepsakes.com)

*OUR MISSION:* A portion of every purchase is used to gift a box to families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty.



*Champaign County HCE Working Together to Make a Change*



*Wishing you the most enjoyable  
time at the  
2021 State Conference*



*CCHCE .....making a difference since 1918*



# Memorial Boxes & Sympathy Gifts

## Comforting Keepsakes



**Keepsake Memory Box**  
*(Shown with Deluxe Sympathy Care Package)*

Personalized Lid  
Size: 15" x 19" x 4.5"  
Precise Dovetail Corners  
High Quality Hardwood  
Your Choice of Lid Design & Stains  
Custom Designs Available  
- **MADE IN THE U.S.A.** -

Visit our Website or Etsy store for lid design options.

**Base Price: \$259.00**  
*(Price includes Keepsake Memory Box Only)*



**Deluxe Sympathy Care Package**

**Package Contents:**  
1-Comforting Prayer Shawl  
1-Paraffin-Free 100% Soy Candle  
3-Tea Sachets  
1-Bath Bomb  
1-Reflection Journal  
1-Comforting Keepsakes Pen  
1-5x5 Sorrow Poem Magnet  
1-"My Person" Greeting Card  
1-Contents Cards with Descriptions  
1-Deluxe Gift Box

**Base Price: \$99.00**  
*(With "Grief Day by Day" Book: \$109.00)*



**Basic Sympathy Care Package**

**Package Contents:**  
1-"Grief Day by Day" Book  
1-Paraffin-Free 100% Soy Candle  
3-Tea Sachets  
1-Bath Bomb  
1-5x5 Sorrow Poem Magnet  
1-Content Descriptions  
1-Personalized Notecard  
1-Gift Box

**Base Price: \$49.00**



**Essential Sympathy Care Package**

**Package Contents:**  
1-Comforting Prayer Shawl  
1-"Grief Day by Day" Book  
1-Content Description Card  
1-Personalized Notecard  
1-Deluxe Gift Box

**Base Price: \$59.00**

**FIND US ON**   
**FREE SHIPPING**  
*on all orders in the continental U.S.*

To order a custom box or sympathy gift, please visit:  
[www.comfortingkeepsakes.com](http://www.comfortingkeepsakes.com) OR Etsy Shop: [Comfortingkeepsakes1](https://www.etsy.com/shop/ComfortingKeepsakes1)

**2021**

**Mercer County HCE**  
Celebrates - Changing  
Growing  
Becoming



As the caterpillar changes in the cocoon,  
The Butterfly becomes the new creature!!

**Enjoy This Year's Conference**

**2021**

Caterpillar-chrysalis-butterfly by Diane M [pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com)

\*Please note that all ad's received for conference have been placed in this newsletter. They will also be included in a special program book for district workshops.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR  
HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
P.O. Box 522  
Pierron, IL 62273



Your newsletter will lapse on : \_\_\_\_\_

.....clip and send with check.....

**Subscription to IAHCE Newsletter**  
1 Year Subscription - \$10.00—Three Issues

Mailed in May - August - December

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone w/Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Address Change \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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