

THE IAHCCE CHRONICLE

Aspire to Inspire



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NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

Angela Hicks - *IAHCE President*



When inspiration does not come to me, I go halfway to meet it.

-Sigmund Freud-

Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

What is the true meaning of inspiration? Inspiration is **a feeling of enthusiasm you get from someone or something, which gives you new and creative ideas.** The 2022 IAHCE Theme was “Aspire to Inspire”. It is my hope you will continue to aspire to inspire, continue to entertain new ideas, be inclusive of all members, and seek ways to increase membership through fun programs and quality educational opportunities!

I would like to thank each of the counties who graciously invited me to attend annual meetings and anniversary celebrations this year. I can truly say that as I traveled throughout Illinois, each county displayed enthusiasm and inspired me to be more creative as your IAHCE President. I am looking forward to visiting the remaining counties over the next year or so!

The 2023 Conference will soon be here! The theme is “Pearls of Wisdom-Strung Together for 99 Years”. As the theme implies HCE members have so much wisdom to share and we encourage you share it not only with members but also with your families and friends! So polish your pearls, wear your favorite little black dress/outfit and help us make the 99th Annual IAHCE Conference memorable!

Most of the counties receive the IAHCE Newsletter. If you are the only one receiving this newsletter, we encourage you to share it with your Board and County Members. The newsletter is not only informative but also a good source of information and ideas. This newsletter is especially informative as the Conference insert is inside. This conference will be filled with great experiences with friends and all are welcome to attend!

I think it is important to share with you that many of the IAHCE Board attended the NVON and CWC/ACWW conferences this year. Each time we attend we learn more about the organizations we are associated with and make friends all over the United States. What is most interesting, we all have similar missions and struggles to maintain and increase membership. We share ideas and brainstorm about solutions! It was an honor to meet the ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock from South Africa! She shared valuable information about the changes in ACWW and the upcoming Triennial in Malaysia. IAHCE is planning to send delegates to the Triennial, so stay tuned for updates!



Pictured: John & Pat Weitzmann, Steve & Angela Hicks, Magdie de Kock, Jane Chapman, Janel Kassing

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

Angela 😊

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st VICE PRESIDENT - Mary Eustace

What a wonderful life! Fall moves quickly into winter and holidays with family and friends. I don't know about you, but this year has flown by. It seems to me that I stay busy and wondered how I ever had the time to work. I am a county HCE President and our county is always doing a project for the community. I love my job! I am told to slow the pace a little by my family, so I can enjoy retirement.

I am really excited about the upcoming conference "Pearls of Wisdom" as I know we are all gems to our family and friends. I hope you will come and enjoy all the fun the state board works so hard at providing along with educational share shops to enjoy with your counties.

Let's all work at making a memorable year for increasing our IAHCE membership. Invite a friend to your function and pay for her 1st year dues. If you have any ideas about a lesson, please don't hesitate to contact me and we will work on making a lesson for all to share.

I am thankful for your friendship and always your beautiful smiles. I am looking forward to seeing you at conference. I've got the Spirit...how about you!

Sincerely,

Mary Eustace



2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

Happy Holidays!

It's hard to believe that another year is almost at an end. I hope this holiday season brings you peace and joy. This year has certainly been a whirlwind as we all have resumed a more "normal" schedule.

This past week I got to visit Districts 4 and 5 for their mini-district meetings. It is always exciting to be with our members! I was amazed to hear about all the wonderful projects, special meetings and NEW members they were getting! I also had the opportunity to install officers in Macon County and they attracted 14 NEW members this year! You all are doing an amazing job spreading the word of what HCE is about. Keep up the good work!

The fall was busy for the Johnson household. I had cataract surgery in both eyes, spent 11 days in Canada on an exciting vacation, helped Sangamon County HCE celebrate their 75th anniversary, as well as several duties with the Red Cross. My husband deployed to Florida for two weeks to help with hurricane relief. As I write this article in October, I am hoping to deploy as well within the next month.

With the end of the year looming, I just want to remind you to complete your End of the Year Membership report. It is due to your District Director by January 5, 2023. The form was in the 2nd Vice President packet that was passed out at the August Workshops. Also, if you need any 25, 50 or 50+ membership certificates please get that list to me by January 31, 2023. Please type the list, you can email or mail the list to me. Certificates will be given to you at the 2nd Vice President meeting at our annual conference.

I hope you are all planning to attend the IAHCE Annual Conference, March 14-16, 2023 in Effingham. It is an amazing three days. Your state officers have been working to give you the best conference yet!

Blessings to each of you! See you in March.

Mary Johnson



Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.



SECRETARY- Cathy Eathington

I want to welcome all IAHCe Members to our Annual Conference on March 14-16, 2023 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. All the information for the Conference will be in this issue of the Chronicle and the President Packet that all County Presidents will receive in December. The Theme for this year is "Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together". Please wear your Pearls at the Convention.

At the Convention you will elect a First Vice-President, Treasurer, Public Relations, and CVH /Sales officer.

There are four By-law changes also by-law changes to vote on. Please have your County President discuss these with your members especially your delegates to the conference.

As always, we will have Share Shops, Vendors, trips, Bingo, Scavenger Hunt, and the Silent Auction. A fun time for all.

All awards will be presented on Tuesday night and our Elsie Mies Banquet will be on Wednesday night. Put on your Pearls and dress in your finery.

Looking forward to seeing you all in March 2023.

May your Holidays be fun and relaxing. Good health and happiness for 2023.

Cathy Eathington, Secretary.



TREASURER- Melissa Chitwood

Wow! 2022 is quickly coming to a close. It seems like this past year went by quickly. To those counties I was able to visit, I want to thank you for your hospitality. Typically you don't think of having the treasurer come to your events, but I was able to make it to a few counties and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Keep those newsletters and invitations coming!

As 2022 ends so does our theme of Aspire to Inspire. **DON'T LET IT END!** We should always be looking for ways to inspire others. In HCE, in our communities, in our homes, everywhere we are we should look for the opportunity to be an inspiration to someone.

If you have not already sent your county's Friendship Projects Fund money you can still send it. Not having it in prior to November 20 does affect your County of the Year points, but not sending it at all could affect projects. Anything received prior to December 31 will still count as a 2022 contribution.

Also, county treasurers, remember that dues are payable before January 5 and are **based on your membership as of December 31, 2022.**

March will soon be here and Eleanor, I and the entire board are excited to ramp up the "Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together" theme for 99th Annual Conference. We have some exciting things planned! Check out the Annual Conference information in this newsletter and send your registration in! If you are interested in volunteering your time during the conference, please contact me or any IAHCe board member.

I encourage everyone to donate to the Silent Auction at conference. IAHCe funding comes from dues (\$5/per person), cash drawing at conference and the Silent Auction. Other events such as conference and workshops are set-up to break even. Therefore, fundraising is important to us all. As a fundraiser please **donate quality items**. We are not looking for garage sale or decluttered items. Knick-knacks typically do not do so well. In the past items that have done well usually fall into one of these categories: handmade; brand new; jewelry; baskets (including county themed); artwork or sports décor. These are just examples, **be creative!** Please consider splitting a \$75 basket into 3 - \$25 baskets. I am sure you will find something wonderful to donate. Will your item be the "must have" item everyone is bidding on? I look forward to see what creative donations you will bring in March.

Have a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year! See you in March!

Melissa

Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees out of dyed goose feathers.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher

It's the *"most wonderful time of the year!"* And, for many of us, a most *busy* time of the year. I know I have a lot on *my* calendar. I have to put up the tree and deck my halls; I have baking to do; I have crafts to make with the grandchildren; I have shopping to do; parties to attend; a church program to practice. Whew! It's easy to get swept up in the activities and forget about the "reason for the season". I think I'll put some Christmas music on, put some citrus peels, cinnamon and cloves in the simmer pot, and thank God for His wonderful gifts to me -- family and friends, home and country, and for His gift of His son, Jesus.

But before I put that music on, there is a little Cultural Enrichment business to take care of. I am looking forward to receiving, from the counties, **Cultural Enrichment program reports for Educational awards**. Information on compiling and submitting these reports can be found in the guidebook on pages 62 – 66. Mail them to me, Becky Belcher, 8682 Co. Rd. 1600E, McLeansboro, IL 62859. **They must be postmarked by January 31.**

To enter items in the **Cultural Arts Show** held at the Annual Conference, the County Cultural Enrichment Director should send a completed registration form, from page 28 of the Guidebook, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to me, Becky Belcher, 8682 Co. Rd. 1600E, McLeansboro, IL 62859. Please note the following clarification to the size rule: the items must be no larger than 24 inches wide by 24 inches long. The height may be higher than 24 inches, within reason. The item must be able to be displayed on a table. **The registration form must be postmarked by January 31.** Please fill out the registration form accurately and completely, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. I will send a tag for each item back to you. These tags are to be attached securely and visibly to the items, by you, before checking them in at the show. **If you prefer, you may register your items by email. Fill out the form, scan it and email it to me, beckybelcher75@gmail.com by January 31. I will send your tags by email, which you must then print and attach as instructed above. I will send a confirmation email as soon as I receive your registration. If you don't get that confirmation email within 24 hours please resend or call me.**

One last bit of business -- **Make It and Take It**. We will be doing Make It and Take It crafts after the Tuesday night program at conference. I have a few lined up but there is always room for more. Do you have a fairly easy, craft idea that you could teach? You provide supplies, tools and instructions needed to complete the craft. Participants will pay you for the cost of supplies. Please contact me if you have something to share.

Whew! So much to do, but I plan to find joy and **wonder** in the busy-ness. I hope you will too. May it truly be a *"most wonderful time of the year"* for you and your family.

Cultural Enrichment Director,

Becky Belcher

Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory

Hello Everyone!

What do June Clever, Donna Reed, Harriet Nelson, Grace Kelly, Jackie Kennedy, Barbara Bush, Michelle Obama, Sophia Loren, and, of course, Elizabeth Taylor, have in common? Yes, all of these ladies are famous for wearing pearls! The famous fashion designer, Coco Chanel (1883-1971), said a woman needs "ropes and ropes of pearls!" There's a famous saying that "pearls are the queen of gems and the gem of queens!" With that bit of wisdom in mind, I hope to see you at the 2023 IAHC Conference March 14-16 with your PEARLS!!!! Please know that the conference is not "just for county board members." All HCE members are welcome to experience this exciting event. So, mark your calendar and bring out those PEARLS, GIRLS!!



Locate the packet you received at the August workshop. Check out the forms inside. Begin planning what event or project you would like to document this year. You can do more than one. (Just not two in the same category.) Be creative and share your wonderful accomplishments. Just a reminder, the areas are: **1. Family Living/Safety, 2. Health/Food and Nutrition, 3. Citizenship/Environment and 4. Special Activity**. Creating a book for your program or project is an awesome way to share with others and honor the HCE members who work hard to make the event happen!

Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards
are sent in the U.S. alone.



Be sure to apply for the **Great American Family of the Year Award!!** This tribute will give this deserving family the support, encouragement, and motivation to continue to work together for their family and community to build their legacy for the next generations. Don't forget this bit of wisdom: "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

If you have any questions about the applications, contact me at **618-410-5951**. Mail them to me: **Eleanor Gregory, PO 185, Alhambra, IL 62001**. Due to possible postal issues, give me a call to let me know it is in the mail AND I will happily call YOU back to let you know I received it. Be sure the completed applications are postmarked by January 31.

All the best and God bless.

International- Janel Kassing

As I sit writing this article, I am watching a program on King Tut. It is so interesting- celebrating the 100th Anniversary of finding his tomb. I think Egypt will be a great country to learn more about. You and your counties so often put items in your newsletters that I'd not found or read in my research. It is so much fun to share. If I'm not on your county's newsletter email or mailing list, please add me- I love to read them.

I just returned from State Board meeting today. We had a very productive meeting- the brainstorming that goes on in one of these meetings is invigorating! We all get so pumped up. Looking very forward to the new year and celebrating at March conference. After writing this article I will be writing ones for my share shops. See you in March in Effingham.

Congratulations to Mallory Mick from Macoupin County. As a former 2 time IAHCSE scholarship winner, we got word that she also was awarded a Ruth B. Sayer Scholarship sponsored by CWC.

I know that many of you know I had a colostomy in May. I have my reversal surgery scheduled and will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. I will be very happy to feel more normal again and be rid of this bag.

The Friendship Projects Fund money collected from 2021 was \$8000+. 50% of that money was divided equally into the 3 new categories ACWW has created for its projects. 25% also goes to the ACWW for its general fund. The remaining 25% will be divided to the following categories: 4- H Foundation, International Peace Garden, Nubabilities, county stipends, conference travel. I will break it down as a print out for conference.

For March I will be researching more information about Egypt and pollinators/ bees and hopefully tie the 2 together. I thought this would be interesting while I'm watching rerun Hallmark Christmas movies recuperating from surgery. I look forward to learning more information.

Looking especially forward to seeing you all at conference. Stop by the tshirt/ bag table just to say "HI".

Stay warm. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas! Enjoy the holiday season!

See you soon,

Janel

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference. You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

- Jane Goodall

All the 12 gifts mentioned in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" would equal 364 gifts.



Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales– Ashley Davis

As I type this article it really is a bittersweet moment for me. This will be my last CVH/Sales article I write. I have almost come to the end of my term. My six years serving on the IAHCe Board has been a true blessing to me, I am thankful for all the friendships I have made and for all I have learned. This experience has changed my life forever. To say the least, I will have to find something to fill my spare time. Thank you all for a wonderful and blessed six years.

It is time to start getting those hours together and get them turned into your county CVH officer. Each year I am amazed even more than the last. The year 2022 has allowed us to get back out and do what we love to do, VOLUNTEER! So, I am looking forward to the hours going back up.

Reminder: The hours must be postmarked (emailed hours must be sent by midnight) by January 31, 2023 to be eligible for the IAHCe State Awards. You can find the Individual Summary on page 54 and the CVH County Summary on page 56 of the IAHCe Guidebook. If you are handwriting the forms, I ask that you PRINT the names of the members, it is hard to make out the correct spellings of the names when they are in cursive. And if you are sending an email, send the hours report as an attachment, if you copy and paste the information in the email, it does not always print out right. Also, list the members' last name first.

We will be giving **GRAND AWARDS** for CVH! The grand awards are for County with the Highest Total Hours Reported, The County with the Highest Number of HCE Hours Reported and The County with the Highest Number of Members Participating. All other awards will be in the CVH/Sales packets along with the Certificates of Recognition.

I hope that you all are EXCITED to attend the 2023 IAHCe Annual Conference in Effingham. I Know I am! Be sure to check the website for the Annual Conference packet and it is always in the December edition of The IAHCe Chronicle. You never know what the IAHCe Board has planned. Hope to see you all there.

From my family to Yours, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! May God bless you all.

CVH/Sales

Ashley Davis



Public Relations- Emily McDowell

As the year is winding down, so are activities. If your county is like mine though, you've been planning what you will be doing for next year. As a reminder, your PR Packet is due to me by the **31st of January**.

You can mail it to **Emily McDowell, P.O. Box 522, Pierron, IL 62273**.

I just recently had some testing done and have found out that I have an intolerance to gluten. I've been practicing a gluten free diet since August 31st. I will be sharing a load of information at our March annual conference in Effingham as a share shop. I hope many of you will consider participating.

In other news, I will be working on making this newsletter a little more exciting and hope to include a few lessons you can take back and use in your counties. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me at emhohl@gmail.com.

You may be aware that my PR position is up for re-election come March. I do plan on running again for this position. These past three years have been a little challenging and I have learned a lot. I feel like I am finally getting the hang of everything and have a system down that is working. I have some plans in place for the next three years, should I get the chance to continue being your PR Director. I'd be happy to discuss that with anybody that is interested in knowing more and look forward to working with you next year, should I be re-elected.

In the meantime, enjoy your holidays, stay safe, stay warm, and keep on sharing about HCE in your communities!

Emily



The “true [love](#)” mentioned in the song “Twelve Days of Christmas” does not refer to a romantic couple, but the Catholic Church’s code for [God](#). The person who receives the gifts represents someone who has accepted that code. For example, the “partridge in a pear tree” represents Christ. The “two turtledoves” represent the Old and New Testaments.



DISTRICT 1 NEWS

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR – Becky Thomas

Hello District 1,

I am enjoying the nice weather we have had in the end of October. The reds in the trees seem brighter this year. I have had a few late Annual Meetings this year. It is always a pleasure to see all of you. I will be asking for a new District Director for the nominating committee. Please consider this office if you name is called. Some of the counties do craft shows in the fall. My county decorates a Christmas Tree for a festival of trees event. At our October State board meeting, I volunteered for Bingo again, but I promise that I will be better prepared than last time. I thought any Bingo game was fun but found out that more planning must be done. "Prepared plans and their fulfillment" will be my motto for the rest of the year until Conference. Some may say that I have needed this advice all along my state board journey and I finally found it. Few people plan their day. Fewer still take the time to prepare. You can plan all you want, but if you don't prepare, you still won't be ready. [Why Preparation is Better Than Planning – Time Management Ninja](#). My son is getting married April 1, 2023, yes right after Conference! How can two wonderful things in my life happen so close together? I will see everyone in March.

Take Care, Becky Thomas District 1 Director



Jo-Daviess

We here in Jo Daviess County are gearing up for the Holiday seasons coming our way. Celebrating our Veterans and the Christmas season keeps our community volunteering busy.

The Jo Daviess HCE members set up a window at the Stockton Heritage Museum in celebration of HCE week. We also had several articles in our local papers talking about HCE and our activities and projects. The window display will be replaced in November with a Holiday Tree with ornaments made by HCE members at our Friendship Day. The ornaments are called German Bells.

The Hills Unit has been busy this fall. They had a fund raiser at Culvers and made Halloween ornaments for members of a nursing home.

At our Annual Friendship day, members brought their cultural arts projects and decided on ones to go on the annual conference.

We also celebrated our country of study Italy with a meal of Italian dishes. We had a trivia contest with questions pertaining to Italy, organized by Eloise Pierce, Cultural Enrichment/International Director and Sally Toepfer, Secretary and Special Activities Director. A rousing time was had by all!

We count our blessings as another year rolls by and wish a safe and happy season to all.



According to data analyzed from Facebook posts, two weeks before Christmas is one of the two most popular times for couples to break up. However, Christmas Day is the least favorite day for breakups.



Mercer

Mercer County Home and Community Education Holds a Program for HCE Week

On October 13, 2022, MCHCE sponsored a program for HCE week. This year, our speaker was Cheryl Brown who presented a program about the British culture. Cheryl's background knowledge of England has come from the many years that her daughter's family has lived in England; quite possibly for nearly 20 years. Her program featured "The United States and England as Two Countries Separated by One Common Language." The education system, some language "Barriers", The Church of England, and, of course, the Rich History, dating back Hundreds of years, are a few of the differences that Cheryl presented for us.



Cheryl's daughter and family live in a home called a "flat". We would call it an apartment even though it is a house in a long row of houses. It is a single-family dwelling that is a house connected to another house separated only by a common wall. In a picture it looks as though it is a long, long building. It is 1 building with many houses. The front of each house is a different color, making the houses distinguishable.

Cheryl's son-in-law is a minister in the Church of England. Her daughter does not have a career outside of the home; however, she works nonstop with her church responsibilities and the church education program. Her involvement in the church is quite cumbersome as she directs many programs and activities sponsored by the church.

Their children are all of school age and attend the public schools. Their oldest daughter is in secondary school which here would be called high school. Their son attends an All Boys Academy, While their youngest daughter attends an elementary school. All three children have a different Way in which they get to school. Their oldest daughter rides the train to school, their son rides his scooter to school, while their youngest daughter walks to school. One very distinctive factor of the Schools of England is that all children wear uniforms to school. These uniforms may consist of all clothing items, including socks and shoes, and beyond this—even the backpack that they carry.

Yes, they speak English as we do; but there are many vocabulary changes. As an example some of their words are spelled differently but have the same meaning. Examples are colour, flavour, quire, leisure, methane, holiday, and laboratory. We spell color and flavor without the "u", but their choice of words is often unlike our word association, such as: holiday is vacation and laboratory is a bathroom. Another ensemble is their vocabulary references to automobiles. Try these words on for size: bonnet, boot, windscreen, indicators, petrol, and so on. Can you match their words to our choices in reference to cars?



They refer to some businesses as a "pub"; but this only means they are public places, not a pub as we might refer to it. They also travel through a "tube" which is an underground railway; possibly, similar to our subway. Soccer in England is called football. Roads are often referred to as roundabouts, a motorway or carriageway. A garage is a gas station; however, the pronunciation is not as we pronounce it! This list is much, much longer than I can begin to put into this article.

Because language, history, government, and the Church are massive topics, I have chosen to put these topics into another news article at a later date.

Stephenson

The 2022 Stephenson County Fair ran from July 27-30 at the fairgrounds in Freeport. Once again, HCE had a designated area to set up displays and present demonstrations to fairgoers. There was a seating area, plus card tables with chairs where kids of all ages could draw pictures or color the printed sheets that we provided for them. Becky Thomas, Cultural Enrichment Director, displayed her apron collection. There were interactive displays, including the popular "Look A Like" poison test. Do you know the difference between cough syrup and grape juice? How about pancake syrup and motor oil? We also had a display about what is needed for planting new plants--Soil Not Dirt.



Our HCE members offered a wide variety of programs, including no-needle knitting, origami, chair yoga, and flower arranging, as well as hands-on instructions on making flowers from the bottoms of plastic pop bottles and butterflies from paper cupcake holders. The last two were very popular with the younger kids. Pamphlets about HCE and copies of popular past lessons were available.

The 98th Annual Meeting of Stephenson County HCE was held during the morning on October 12 at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. IAHCCE President, Angela Hicks, spoke at the meeting. She also installed the 2023 SCAHCE County Board members. Membership awards were passed out. Many members have been in HCE from 15 to 55 years, but Shirley Schadewaldt, Pearl City Unit, was recognized as a 65 year member. Volunteer-hour certificates were also awarded. The Mock Orange Unit was recognized as the Unit of the Year. Two HCE members received Homemaker of the Year--Carla Meyer, Silver Creek, and Janice Fryer, Mock Orange.



Immediately following the annual meeting and the noon luncheon, we had the International Meeting. International Director, Judy Shippee, introduced Mary Julius, who gave the program on the country of Italy. Mary had travelled to Italy several times, so she told us about her experiences while visiting there.. She also displayed items she had acquired while in Italy.

Well, that's my update on Stephenson County HCE and what we have been up to this summer and fall. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!

Janice Fryer



Warren

Warren County HCE held its Annual/International meeting On Thursday, October 22 at 1 p.m. at the Farm Bureau auditorium. They had 14 members in attendance including Barbara Patterson, retired board member, from Kentucky. They did an installation of officers with a theme of Aspiring to Inspire using the pitcher, ice, spoon, water, sugar as examples of their duties as board members. Desserts served were lemon favored ranging from lemon bars to cookies and more.

Shortly after the Annual/International meeting at 4 p.m. there was a Glass Class held. It was led by LuAnn Steffens and her friend Deb. Members used glass pieces to stack on top of one another and then glues them together. LuAnn then takes them and does the firing of the glass and shapes them to your liking. One member created a bowl and we cannot wait to see what that looks like. There were seven members and two 4-H members that attended.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct 22 HCE hosted a 4-H and Friends Glass Class with 7 adults and 8 4-H members in attendance. It's that anticipation of waiting to see the finished product that gets you but it's so worth in the end. The creation sometimes is amazing.

WCHCE also provided pizza and cookies to those from the Warren Achievement Center for their Halloween party on Friday, October 28 at 11 a.m. Warren Achievement Center provides day program services to adults with developmental disabilities.



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

Unbelievable how time flies. It seems like it was just August and we were having Workshops in all 5 Districts. Thank everyone for attending and making each one a great success. The seasons and times are changing, and lots of HCE forms to be filled out and returned to State Board members by certain dates. If you have any Questions please call or text me at 779-801-2675. The Holiday Season is upon us, I would like to Wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving as you gather with Friends and Loved ones. Also Wishing you all the Joys the Christmas Season brings. See you all in March at our 99th Annual Conference March 14 - 16 2023 in Effingham, IL "Pearls of Wisdom—Strung together for 99 years!"



DuPage

We celebrated HCE Week by donating clothing to the needy, attending the lesson "Mindfulness and Money", donating canned goods to a local food pantry, calling mailbox members, and having a Unit Breakfast Outing. On November 14th we will celebrate "A Taste of Italy". The bees were plentiful in August and September. At our county update on August 29th, with 16 in attendance, we voted that our September 15th "Morning in the Park" at Herricks Lake Forest Preserve would become a community service day the the extension office. We also held a silent auction at our update.

Our Lunch Bunch met on July 28th at Maggianos in Naperville and on September 29th at Honey Jam Café in Naperville. They were scheduled to meet at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont on October 27th, but due to their permanent closing on September 30th, they met at Riganato's Old World Grille in Geneva. There was no Lunch Bunch in August due to our county update and they will not meet in November or December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, respectively.

Mylon Fisher, Public Information



Grundy

Cornfest is over for another year in Grundy. The firemen's water fight is always a big draw on the first night and the parade on the last day. We made a HCE scarecrow to be entered into the 73rd Cornfest contest. Although we didn't win, it is always a fun time. President Angela Hicks won the Woody and Buzz Lightyear artwork at Grundy's HCE Day. Megan Runkel won the jewelry donated by Angela Hicks and the Lighthouse picture was won by Sharon Middleton. The money collected will be used for the "Road to 100th" fundraiser.

We also collected donations for two 501(c)3 charities: Hands of Dignity & Hope Outreach and a Pet-Project No-Kill Shelter. The dignity baskets are a big part of their charity. Many seniors on a fixed income and needy families who get food stamps can't afford these necessities. Hand soap, toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products, laundry soap, cleaning products, etc. The Pet Project needed help with laundry/dish soap, bleach, paper towels, dog/cat collars, trash bags large and small, and chew bones. Everyone that came to HCE Day and donated to these charities got a raffle ticket for a recipe basket drawing that were made by our units and district director, Rita Overacker. These recipe baskets had all the ingredients needed to make the item in the baskets. One of our local merchants "Nettle Creek Lavender Farm" came and gave us a presentation of the products they sell. They have over 17 varieties of lavender and make candles, lotions, lip balm and also sell the flowers. They also have beehives and sell their honey. We have done few brown bag lunches in the parks for get-togethers and lessons.



Kane

Several units in Kane County do not meet in July or August, but to gain continuity for programs for the entire county, summer activities were implemented. The first one on July 20th was a brunch at the Tasty Biscuit in St Charles followed by a docent led tour of the Fabyan Villa. Important to the development of route 31 along the Fox River, the home of Colonial George Fabyan was called Riverbank. The estate was home to a Japanese Garden, a private zoo, windmill, small farm, two scientific laboratories, and a World War I code-breaking research program. Following the tour, members and guests were invited to continue with a walk about the tea garden and extensive grounds that now are properties of the Kane County Forest Preserve District. The windmill had been duplicated by Dave and Ann Rempfer for our 2020 IAHCE Theme, "Power of the Past, Beacon to the Future".

"Introduction to a Roman Holiday", county wide HCE picnic, took place at the Haire Park (County President's Home) on August 17. The HCE Board planned a day filled with fun and festivities as the units continue in the Italian country of study theme. Members and guests enjoyed a pot luck luncheon and several Italian related recipes were prepared. Activities included: Friendship Projects Fund collection, membership drive, recycling, photo booth for groups and individuals, and a rousing game of Bingo with 50% to winners and 50% to the treasury. New and inventive configurations of Bingo were used. The day cooperated with sunshine and breezes. We couldn't have been happier!

The "Last Hooray for Italy- Roman Holiday", held at the extension office, was held October 13th. This was KCAHCE's Fun Day/Fine Arts and Crafts competition during HCE Week in Illinois. Public Relations Director, Ann Rempfer, chaired the event. Community Outreach continued as members brought recycling items for Junia Epperson, Director, to distribute. A new recycling list has been developed to facilitate recording and reporting of the extension efforts to reuse, reduce, and recycle. Joan Rossi, Cultural Enrichment Director, displayed handmade items and winners were chosen by membership vote to proceed to the state contest at the annual conference in March.

An Italian feast was catered for the luncheon. Both in the morning and after lunch, make and take stations were set up to take a hand at making some creative crafts along with creating an Italian Pizzelle. Crafts included greeting cards, dot mandala jars, button flowers, little boxes from cards, and string scarves. Fundraisers included a 50/50 raffle for the Kane County Treasury and a collection for Friendship Projects Fund for ACWW.

Units reported activities during HCE Week. Preparation of foods for the fire station and police stations were planned. Presentation at a township board meeting and publication in newsprint was reported. Membership re-enrollment is in progress with emphasis on new members is encouraged.

Kankakee

Members of Kankakee County HCE have been busy trying to spread the word about HCE to our community in the hopes of getting new members. In August we set an informational display up at the County Fair. Four ladies attended Workshop in Sycamore to gather new ideas. They have had several game and craft days in September and October. Also in October they held a Tea and White-Elephant Raffle. In November they will be having an International Luncheon on Italy. Our County also celebrated two Ladies for Milestone Birthdays one 89 years and one 90 years. Both ladies have a combined 119 years As HCE members. We are working on our program, and new things for 2023. We wish all our HCE Friends Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lake

Hello from Lake County. For new readers who do not know where Lake County is, we are the county that sits in the northeast corner of Illinois next to Wisconsin and Lake Michigan.



Last year I wrote about how Lake County did not have much in the way of autumn colors. Well, Mother Nature is apparently making it up to us this year. We have not seen colors this wonderful in a long time.

Several members of our board attended the IAHCE District 2 Meeting in Sycamore on August 9. As part of our study of Italy, we had a demonstration on making pasta on August 13. Rose Ann Rendl of our American Unit taught this lesson showing us how to make gnocchi. We sampled two types of gnocchi, one made with ricotta cheese and the other made with potatoes. It was very interesting to see how different the two were in texture while being very similar in taste.

In September, we learned one of our Mail Box members, Irene Chinje, who is from Cameroon in Central Africa, is running for the position of ACWW Deputy World President. We have sent her our best wishes for a positive outcome in the election during the Triennial Conference next year.



International Director, Jane Ellen Keroson, hosted our International Day Event on Saturday, October 1. All who attended had a great time; a warm friendly room, a great lunch menu of Italian food, games to keep us busy, and raffles to raise money for the Friendship Projects Fund. Besides a great time, we visited with friends we have not seen in a while and learned about Italy. We did this by photographs shared by those who visited the country and family history shared by those who are of Italian heritage.

Stay safe and well!

Candace Keegan



LaSalle

LaSalle County HCE conducted the 104th Annual Meeting, November 10th with IAHCE President, Angela Hicks and District 2 Director, Rita Overacker attending. The business meeting was conducted by County President, Paula Freepartner followed with entertainment of a chamber choral group of students from Seneca High School. Everyone enjoyed fellowship and making a sundae of their choice.

A highlight of the year was the Membership/International Tea held May 12th. A selection of 12 sweet and savory Italian foods were served. Carol Elmore, County International Director, lead the 48 attendees in a game of Tombola, which is a typical family bingo type game played at family gatherings. The tables were decorated with goblets filled with a variety of pasta in which the guests worked as a table group to name all of them using Italian. After this activity, Carol explained how each pasta was traditionally prepared.

Last July we supported the 4-H Fair through sponsoring trophies, and working the early morning shift at the Food Stand making hundreds of the famous egg sandwiches. The aroma of the bacon frying brings everyone down the hill to the food stand. Also the customers come for the five hundred slices of fruit pies sold during the four day fair.

Livingston

Hello from Livingston H.C.E. Board .Well we wrapped up another year with our 4-H fair 2022. We have had two board meetings one thing the Board did was plant a Douglass Fir tree at the Pontiac extension office purchased from SWCD sale. We also discussed our programs for upcoming year, Dress a girl around the world .On Monday Oct, 24, 2022 we had a joint meeting with Jean Gaspardo as a speaker. Jean has been to Italy many times, her presentation and food was great. We had 26 members present from five H.C.E. groups. Our meeting was adjourned .Here are two pictures from our group meeting on Italy and tree planting. Connie Kostelc, Jean Gaspardo, Denece Bressner, and Joyce Brewer. Board members Lucille Wiechmann ,Sandi Kimpling, Meri Knapp, Ellie Bossert and Arlene Martell. Enjoy the rest of fall have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, spend time with Family and friends until next year.

God Bless, Lucille Wiechmann



In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ



McLean

What an interesting fall we have experienced – summer, fall, winter and now more fall. McLean County units have enjoyed learning about “Discovering the Art of Flavor Using Oils and Vinegars”, “What do you know about Sugar Beets?”, and “Fair Trade Goods at Crossroads”. Crossroads will donate a percentage of sales to HCE for a time period after the lesson. The Community Service Days produced around 1,000 Christmas stockings that will be filled with useful items and delivered to area nursing homes in December. In September members met for Read and Share: *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson. November members will discuss the book *Distant Shores* by Kristin Hannah.

The Beef House in Covington, Indiana was a fall trip destination of 12. A delicious dinner and a play “The Wild Women of Winedale” was very enjoyable.

Members and guests enjoyed the International Day “Welcome to Italy” with speaker Linda Olson. Each month this year units will learn more about Italy – so far this included a history timeline, food, economy, geography and climate. The cultural enrichment in September was a tour of Ewing Manor and Genevieve Garden in Bloomington plus lunch at Olive Garden by 16 members and 6 guests. October found members and guests visiting the Rudd Homestead in Pontiac followed by lunch at Café Fontana. October also found units promoting HCE week at libraries, taking treats to first responders, etc. The November experience was a “Cookie Exchange”.

In December units will celebrate with lunch out and some holiday activities. The entire county will join at the McLean County HCE Christmas Party at the Chateau consisting of a meal, bingo, musical entertainment and make it take it crafts. The Old Rugged Barn, rural Towanda, will benefit from HCE bakers in mid-December.

McLean County HCE members held a very successful “Attic Treasures and Bake Sale” in October. Monies made support 4-H and scholarships.

Family Issues/Community Outreach is collecting for Home Sweet Home Mission – paper plates/napkins, snack items, canned soups and potatoes, men’s socks and large cans of shaving cream. Shipments to soldiers are occurring on a regular basis.

The new year finds members learning about “Online Shopping”, “Simply Charcuterie!” and “Pollinators”. Cultural enrichment will start with a January tour of the McLean County History Museum, February members tour Kara and Kaylee’s Closet (gowns to borrow and return), and making Easter baskets.

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

See you in McLean County! Come Visit!

Barb Jurgens, PR Committee



Pictures– Left: Christmas cookie set up, Middle: Ewing Manor and Genevieve Garden tour, Right: Attic Treasures and Bake Sale Set-up

Most of Santa’s reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa’s sleigh are likely not male, but female or castrated.



Will

The colors of Autumn in my community are so beautiful this year! Who needs to take a ride to Wisconsin or Michigan this year when trees in our backyards are blazing with various shades of reds, yellows, browns, and greens. Since our Annual Meeting in May, we added a bit of fun for our members. We had two Bunco parties, and everyone who attended them loved them. It allowed members the opportunity to meet and interact with others. Everyone brought a lunch, and our WCHCE provided cookies and drinks. Prizes were pizzas from Dominoes. We had so much fun, that after the first, our members asked to do it again. We hope to do this again in the early spring.

Our *Cultural Arts Meeting* took place on October 11th. Our President, Gail Shaw, explained “How to celebrate IAHC Week” by listing suggestions to follow for each day of the week. She also provided information about the importance of bees to us and introduced the new IAHC, “Pollinators Feed the World” project. The remainder of the meeting followed through with an Italian theme. Italy has been our 2022 focus country.

Do you know what kind of pasta is named conchigli, cavatappi, or oricchetti? Our members were provided a “Name the Pasta” sheet to see how many knew the names of 20 kinds of pasta. No one got them all correct. Our speaker, Michael Bodenhausen, spoke about “*Painting Outside the Box.*” He reported on an Italian painter, Sandro Botticelli, who is not readily recognizable, but made important contributions to the Italian art world. “Influenced by the revival of Greek and Roman ideas in Florence, Botticelli was one of the first Western artists, since classical times, to depict non-religious subject matter. The idea that art could be for pleasure, and not only serve religious purposes, was a breakthrough for Western art.” The talk was so interesting! Lunch continued with an Italian theme. There was pizza and salad. Delicious cannoli and slices of tiramisu were donated by *Tony’s Fresh Market*. Afterwards, our acting Cultural Arts Chairman, Andrea Zoelle, conducted a search for art projects that would be entered at the IAHC Annual Conference in March. *Judy Maier* of the Crystal Unit entered two outstanding crafts: a handmade quilt and a painting, both of which will travel to the Conference in Effingham.

Lou Ann Kinsella, Crystal Unit’s President, brought her Unit’s art projects for the event. In September, each member tossed selected paints at a canvas to create a piece of art. The artwork was quite lovely. Finally, Vice President, Carolyn Yoemans, demonstrated how to create a holiday tree napkin. Each member was provided with a “napkin” to create a tree-shaped one for the holidays. The WCHCE Board is meeting at a new restaurant in December, Three Corners, for a holiday get-together. Time to say goodbye to a pretty good year and make plans for 2023—can you believe---2023?

Happy Holidays, everyone, and a Happy New year!

Mary Barrett



According to the Guinness world records, the tallest Christmas tree ever cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.

The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.



DISTRICT 3 NEWS

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill



What a busy, inspiring year this has been as I have traveled the state to meet with many of you at your annual meetings. I have enjoyed learning about the wonderful projects and traditions in the various counties. Even though we are all part of IAHCE, the personal and sometimes creative ways you support each other, and your communities has been an insightful experience for me. I thank you for welcoming me to your meetings.

After just returning from a very productive state board meeting, I want to remind you to get all of your reports turned into the correct state board member by the dates you have been given. I (as well as the state secretary) need a copy of your year-end membership report by January 5th. If you need a form, it can be found on page 19 of the Guidebook.

As we finish this year with our *Aspire to Inspire* theme, I have a quote found on Pinterest for you to contemplate.

“There’s no need to be perfect to inspire others. Let others get inspired by how you deal with your imperfections.”

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming, exciting state conference!

Karen Cahill

Champaign

Champaign County HCE is having a busy fall. Our 104th Annual meeting was on September 14, 2022 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium. We had 68 members attending the meeting. Our guest speaker was Rod Kroener, co-owner of “5 Acres Farm Daylilies” in Tolono, IL. Title of the talk was “Nana was a Hooker”. Rod learned the craft of rug hooking from his grandmother. He showed several of his personal beautiful rugs he had made and showed some that his grandmother had made. A very informative speaker. We recognized 5 of our members as 50 year members. Members received awards for their volunteer hours in 2021. Karen Cahill, District 3 Director, installed the newly elected County Board members. We had two new members on the board, Connie Herrschop, secretary and Mary Lou Younger, Volunteer hours chairman. Lynn Trotter is moving to a new position on the board as Cultural Enrichment Director. A monetary award was given to the unit that had the most members attending the meeting. Dewey/Fisher unit was the winner.

Our next event was a tri-county event with Vermilion and Ford County HCE “Game & Soup Day” on September 28, 2022. A fun day with a variety of delicious homemade soup and desserts made by our board members. A minor lesson was given on the “History of Soups”. Everyone attending enjoyed the day playing a variety of board games, playing euchre and a few worked on puzzles. We also had a puzzle and book exchange at the event.

Our Membership event was on October 19th at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Our guest speakers were enjoyed by all attending. Janette Jurczyk is the founder of the “The Family Room”. This is one of CCHCE community projects. The Family Room is non-profit organization that provides a wide range of assistance to foster families to ensure a safe loving home and brighter future for foster children in Champaign County. CCHCE has donated needed clothing for all ages and monetary donations to support this program. Our next speaker was Andrea Hunt-Shelton owner of the “CU Flower House”. She demonstrated on the how, do’s and don’t of making a fresh flower arrangements. She also talked about her flower club, rental of her shop for events and the co-op of artists and entrepreneur that are available and her CU Petal program. The Petal program, she uses left over flowers from weddings and events and organized “Giving Day” where children come with their parents to learn and make flower arrangements to be given to local hospital or nursing home residents. The purpose to teach the kids about the importance of giving. CCHCE members brought flower vases to donate to this program. A packet was given out to all attending that included information on What is HCE (included information about CCHCE also), information about “Bee-Cause pollinators feed the World” ; information on who is supporting this project and the new volunteer hours form and what counts for volunteers hours. To date, we have had 12 new members join CCHCE this year.

The world’s largest Christmas stocking measured 106 feet and 9 inches (32.56 m) long and 49 feet and 1 inch (14.97 m) wide. It weighed as much as five reindeer and held almost 1,000 presents. It was made by the Children’s Society in London on December 14, 2007



CCHC Cultural arts show was on October 26th. Several of our members brought their special projects to be judged by three independent judges that selected 8 projects to be sent to State Conference in March 2023. Our guest speaker was Jim Wurersch, co-owner of "5 Acres Farm Daylilies". He talked and demonstrated on "Natural Fabric Dyes". Jim does rug hooking and showed that he dyes all his material for his rugs (wool material is used). He showed some of his rugs he had made using homemade dyes. Carol Castellon & Lucinda Lawrence talked and showed a power point on "The Circuit of the 8th Judicial District Markers" that Lincoln followed. Members whose projects were selected was Nancy Mathis, crochet pillowcases; Bobbi McEntire, art; Lynn Trotter, nature project and recycled project; Bonnie Compton, needlepoint sunflower picture; Marty Long, cross stitch picture "Foot prints in the Sand". Congratulations ladies!

Our sewing group has been busy continuing making weighted blankets for autistic children in Champaign County. Also a county project is Units are assigned a holiday and are making favors for 40 residents in the Illini Heritage Rehab & Care facilities. Units are still giving to the Developmental Service Center group homes in our community. Our newest project is Champaign Crisis nursery, collecting items needed and giving monetary donations.

We are having several minor lessons being discussed at the unit meetings. Also in our monthly newsletter "The Chatter" articles are being written by our PR person on "BEE-CAUSE Pollinators Feed the World" Our book club continues to meet and is very well attended. The group meets monthly for breakfast followed by interesting discussions of the present book being read.

Our next event is our 7th Annual Holiday Trees & Craft Sale on November 4th & 5th at the Farm Bureau Building. Several of our members are vendors plus outside vendors selling handcrafted items. Also members and units are decorating Christmas trees and wreaths to be sold at the event. On November 21st is our International Luncheon with a guest speaker talking about Italy and entertainment.

Carol Froeschl



Annual Meeting CCHC Board Officers installed
 Carol Froeschl, Bobbi McEntire, Connie Herrschop,
 Melissa Chitwood, Lynn Trotter, Bonnie Compton,
 Marge Probasco, Mary Lou Younger. Karen Cahill



Annual Meeting Speaker showing hooked rugs made. Karen & Melissa state officers attending.



Nursing home favors & cards made for residents for Halloween by Bondville/Seymour Unit

DeWitt

We have been busy in DeWitt County HCE! In August we had our Annual Potluck and played Bingo later. We had quite a few of our members present and we had a guest who used to be a member. She decided to rejoin HCE, we were very happy to get an old member back!



We are a Tri County Unit with Macon, Piatt and Dewitt, and in September we had our International Day on Italy. The program was done by Macon County, they had a member that had been to Italy several times. Dewitt County was in charge of the food and we used the Culinary School from Richland Community College to cater the meal. Also in September Clinton has their Annual Apple and Pork Festival, our HCE members made many Quick Breads to sell. We sold from the Farmers Market area and had very good luck. We all worked hard and baked hard but we made a very nice profit, this will enable us to help in the community.

Our HCE week was not very well attended due to weather and illnesses. Four of us went to Lincoln on Tuesday to visit the Lincoln Heritage Museum. We found this very interesting. Later we went downtown Lincoln for lunch. Our day was cut short due to the rain. In October we are looking forward to our meeting to learn about Salt in all its Varieties! In November we are making plans for our Annual Day. Karen Cahill, District 3 Director will be installing our new officers. In December we will have our Christmas outing.

Happy Holidays to all!

Linda Riva



Edgar

We celebrated HCE Week October 9-15. The Mayor of Paris declared this as HCE Week. On Tuesday, October 11 was International Night with the study of Italy. Members had made some typical Italian food for the attendees to sample. Speakers were Denise and Mark Allanson whose son works there and they have visited him a few times. A cultural enrichment show was enjoyed the same night. Attendees voted on their favorites during the evening.

On Thursday night, October 13 we had Women Walk the World from 4:00-5:00. Then we started our game night. Those in attendance had a variety of games from which to choose the one they wanted to play. Snacks were provided to enjoy during the evening. The cultural enrichment show was still on display for voting. A great time was had by all.

Marge Houghland

Macon

We have had many interesting, fun, and educational programs this summer and fall. Our Craft Day/Membership Drive was well attended and the members enjoyed the crafts that were available. We had several members volunteer to teach the crafts. We had button flowers, jars to decorate, pumpkins, quilt blocks to paint, bookmarks, and flowers made with strips of material and canning jar lids. The day of crafts and a salad bar and dessert luncheon only cost \$10.00. It was a fun day!!!



Our International Day for our three counties was held at our Macon County Extension office. There were speakers, a picture presentation about our country of study, Italy, and lots of good food prepared by Chef Tucker and our Richland Culinary School. Our education scholarships were awarded to Brianna Austin and Caleb White, the grandchildren of Linda Austin, our newsletter and public relations officer. Brianna is a junior at Cedarville College and plans to graduate with a degree in elementary education and special education. Caleb is a freshman at Murray State in Kentucky and is pursuing a degree in Conservation. Our fall meeting will be Wednesday, October 26 at our Macon County Extension office. Our speaker will be Jamye Sims, an HCE member from Christian County. She will present a program about clowng. HCE week was a huge success. We had lessons about the bee and the beekeeping process, food demonstrations, the intermodal system, cookware, and a presentation of leading ladies done by our own membership.

For future programs, we will have a lesson by Don Chamberlain about the “Trail of Tears”; one of our members, Georgette Merrifield, will present a “Tour of the States Recipes for Meals”, and in December we will explore “Living in a Digital World.” We will continue to make the pillowcases and the bonding hearts. We are collectin items for our Christmas Care packages to be sent to our deployed military persons. These will be mailed on December 5th. We are looking forward to a new year and new programs. In the spring, we are planning to have Melissa Gouty as a speaker for our Tri-County fundraiser. She previously owned a quilter’s retreat. After she sold this business, she became an author, a speaker and an entrepreneur. We will update this information as it becomes available.

Linda Austin



From left to right: Elizabeth Winter-Bonnie Lanham, Jane Adams- Sally Dennis, Francis Willard-Mary Ann Platt, Clara Brian/Mrs. Spencer Ewing—Georgette Merrifield, Elsie Weiss-Lyn Stevens, Betty White—Sandy Severe, Narrator- Carol Ropp

Piatt

The Piatt County AHCE is moving right along.

On June 6, 2022, Piatt County AHCE hosted the Tri-County AHCE meeting at Cisco United Methodist Church. Twenty-one people were in attendance at this meeting. DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt County AHCE officers have gotten together every quarter to share ideas. We have decided to take this a step further with communicating the events and opportunities we have in each of our counties and inviting the other two counties to join us. We are hoping to enable our membership to cross county lines and attend not only our county events but also other events hosted by our two sister counties, Macon and DeWitt.

Josie Heck presented a beginning chair yoga class to an interested audience of senior citizens on June 14, 2022 at Tatman Village. All of the exercises that were presented for this beginner’s lesson were done while the ladies were sitting down.

The Piatt County AHCE is working to help our community: This sample of a Busy Bee Block was created by the Cerro Gordo unit and is to be used with Alzheimer patients at the Piatt County Nursing Home.

The Piatt County AHCE is participating in our local Farmers Market that is held on June 23, July 28, August 25, and September 22, 2022. We will be encouraging people to write out cards for our veterans, informing our local citizens about AHCE, and presenting and selling our crafts (especially our \$5.00 scrubbies). Miriam Seevers and Carol Drayton were the first AHCE members to man our booth at the local Farmer’s Market on June 23, 2022.

Hope to see you again in the fall as there will be more exciting events to report on!

Sangamon

The Sangamon County Group has been very busy with crafts, trips and Anniversaries. We have been to Merri-Man Herbs, Indian Creek Farmstead and just celebrated our County's 75th Anniversary just to name a few activities. Project Day volunteers worked hard getting ready to sell their homemade



goods at the Marbold Farmstead Heritage Festival while still donating time, energy, and goods to local charities. We celebrated our 75th Anniversary this month with a wonderful program and meal. The ladies and our few gentlemen members enjoyed the time together reminiscing. Our group was able to gain a few more members too. We look forward to the Holidays and the get togethers with friends and family and continuing to support the ones in need in our community.

Tazewell

At the end of July it was good to be back on the fairgrounds and have our food stand to feed the hungry fairgoers! Exhibits and attendance were lower than pre-COVID but we have confidence that those will pick up in coming years.

This past October several of our county HCE ladies attended Illinois Homemakers Craft Camp at Allerton Park. They learned many new crafts, met new people, and enjoyed the peace and quiet of Allerton. They would like to see many of you there next year, it is always held the weekend prior to Columbus Day.

Also in October we held our annual International Day. Kathy Baker is an HCE member in Tazewell County. She and her husband, Bill, lived in Italy for a few years while he was assigned there by Caterpillar Tractor Company. Bill was able to tell us about living in Italy, not simply visiting, but living. His pictures of their home, Kathy's garden, and places they were able to visit were very interesting and brought about a great discussion. I think Bill described their time there as comparable to a honeymoon. Their children were all grown so it was just the two of them in Italy with every weekend free to travel! For lunch the county officers and unit presidents each prepared an Italian dish and those were enjoyed by all!

We are now making plans for our Cabin Fever Day to be held on Presidents' Day in February. The lovely Mary Eustace has graciously agreed to come and give her presentation on the wives of some of the presidents. We are looking forward to her coming to meet with us.

Darlene Curry



Vermilion

Vermilion County says, "Hello to all Our IAHC Friends!"

Our County has been busy having Fun the Past few months! First was our annual Fall Picnic. and our annual International Pot Luck Luncheon. The Country of Study was the theme of the luncheon. Ten people attended the VCHCE Fall Picnic at Kickapoo Park near Oakwood, IL. Each person brought two cans of vegetables and a dish to share. One can was added to a soup base prepared by Diane Reddy and the other can went to the food pantry. Those attending were Phyllis Nightlinger, Ben White, Eleanor White, Meris McCalla, Nancy Dolan, Terry Dolan, Diane Reddy, Debby Holycross, JoAnne Gerard, and Mary Stampini. After a great lunch we could just visit or pretend to be kids again with paints, colored pencils, paper, and scissors provided. You could write a letter to someone with cards and envelopes provided or make a God's Eye with yarn and sticks. It wasn't too cold or too windy, so it was a fun day.

Eleven members and guests attended the VCHCE International lunch on October 6, 2022 at the East Park Church of Christ in Danville, IL. After a delicious lunch, Shirley Splittstoesser told us about her travels in the northern part of Italy. She had pictures and maps to help us learn more about Italy. Those attending were Diane Reddy, Catherine Hahne, Meris McCalla, Nancy Dolan, Terry Dolan, Carol Davis, Ann Shelton, JoAnne Gerard, Shirley Splittstoesser, Sue Green, and Mary Stampini. The table decorations included lemons, olives, and candies from Italy. Copies of a map, facts about Italy, and facts about lemons were given to each person. A display table had items from Italy and information about ACWW. It's fun to travel to a new country every year.



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards

Hope you had a great fall.

We had a great Mini Meeting Tuesday, October 25th. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. We reviewed the County Guidebook quickly. Those who attended expressed having an enjoyable time of getting to know each other and sharing ideas on Cultural Enrichment, Fundraising, and Special Activities/Projects. Thank you to Fayette County for everything they did to help make the meeting such a success.

Our next District 4 Mini Meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia. Hoping to have a special guest and program.

I have had the opportunity to visit several counties and install your officers this fall. It is so amazing to see the differences within each county, but at the same time see how much we all have in common. I learn something new during each county visit and could meet delightful, wonderful people.

County Presidents, shortly after December 1st, be on the lookout for the President's Packet that will have March 2023 Annual Conference information in it. Please share this information with your Board and membership.

Mark your calendars: Annual Conference, March 14 – 16, 2023 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Look forward to seeing you then.

Have a great Christmas season,

Donna Richards

Crawford

Crawford County HCE enjoyed a fun HCE Week in October with various programs, a day of BINGA games and the Annual Meeting & Luncheon, where District 4 Director, Donna Richards installed next year's officers. This year's fall trip was to Paris, IL to the Larkfield Glass Company, owned by Randy & Joy Turner. They gave us several glass-blowing demonstrations and we were able to purchase beautiful one-of-a-kind works of art. The group enjoyed lunch at Betty Jane's Kitchen. Crawford County HCE members have been collecting plastic bottle caps and lids for the past 3 years to melt down into weather proof benches for the community. So far, 3,800 pounds of plastic has been kept out of the landfill and recycled into 38 benches. The last 4 benches were placed in the county's 4 smaller townships where residents could use them.



Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.

Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.



Effingham

District 4/5 meeting, Effingham:

Effingham HCE members served the morning refreshments for the District meeting in Effingham.

Nancy Hoene, (right) Effingham County HCE Board 2nd vice President, baked 16 dozen muffins. Here is the recipe that was requested by several attendees.

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

Ingredients:

- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups ground carrots
- 1 apple, chopped
- 8 ounces pineapple
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1/2 cup raisins

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Mix oil and eggs; add vanilla.
- Mix in flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking soda and salt.
- Fold in carrots, apple, pineapple, coconut, nuts and raisins.
- Mix until well blended.
- Bake 25 minutes.
- Makes 24 muffins.



Countywide—Exercise and Physical Therapy:

Jonathon Frohning, Physical Therapist, ProRehab gave tips on being healthy. Carol Shultz had everyone up and moving.

Countywide-Herbs:

Elsie Voelker and Claudia Berg were among those who discussed various herbs with U of I Extension Educator, Mary Liz Wright.

Countywide International-Italy:

Units shared in preparing for the meeting. The speaker, Sherri Renee, was a hit with her history and tales of travelling through Italy. The many customs, places, and foods she described in her presentation made everyone want to learn more about the country. Of course, the food served to those attending

Countywide-Christmas Crafts for Kids and Beyond: Patty Winn became “Eloise, the Elf” for an afternoon of fun and food for the holidays. After her program, along with Effingham HCE board members and 4-Hers, she led games and helped everyone in making crafts for kids and for making homes more festive for the holidays.

Happy Holidays from Effingham County!



Fayette

This has been a very busy time, with by-law meetings, board meetings, district workshop, mini district, and many planning meetings. District workshop is always a great time. Hearing what the theme of state conference is and the antics leading up to the announcement is fun. Sharing ideas is a great way to learn. In September, we had our International meeting. Donna Richards came to install our officers. Sherry Rennells gave an excellent presentation on Italy. She has been there several times. She is very knowledgeable and showed lots of photos.

In October, we presented a basket of gifts to the first baby born to a Fayette County mother. Beckham is the first child of parents Grant and Danielle Wells. We started a class called My Amazing Journey. The purpose of this is to leave information about your life for future generations. You are given a couple of ideas to write about. We then share our story, if we feel comfortable doing it. What a great way to get to know each other while leaving stories for families. This is open to the public in hopes of getting more members.

Lyn Gartke did a very informative presentation on the kinds of elder abuse and what we can do about it. The St. Elmo police chief and a police officer were there to answer questions from the audience. The program was a community event. We had a craft night that was open to the public. They had a choice of four different crafts or all of them. A good time was had by all. We took part in Old Tyme Christmas this year. We sold stocking stuffers. Best of all we had our first cookie contest for the kids. We had cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in two different groups. It was very interesting to see what recipe the kids chose to bake. Judges judged the cookies by entry number not name. The first place winner's cookie will be our cookie of the year.



Macoupin

Season's greetings from Macoupin County. 2023 is on the horizon and I must say finally we are getting back to some sense of normalcy. Units are holding their monthly meetings and the county has been able to hold lesson training as well as holding banquets.

Our first vice president, Carol Pollo, along with unit vice presidents met with Lisa Peterson, our Nutrition and Wellness Educator, to discuss lessons for 2023. The ladies have chosen some very interesting lessons for 2023. These lessons are Cooking with Honey, Apples, Fuel to Fight Cancer, Financial Preparedness, Eye Health, Spices and Herbs, Bees and Butterflies, Easy to Grow Perennials, and Responding to Color as We Age.

In October, we were able to hold our Founder's Day Celebration and celebrate Macoupin County's 92nd birthday. We were honored to have state officers, Angela Hicks (President) and Melissa Chitwood (treasurer), with us for the day. District 4 Director, Donna Richards, installed our 2023 county officers. A business meeting, election of officers, recognition of 25 and 50 year members, recognition of volunteer hours, and silent auction were held. The guest speaker was Suzanne Humphrey's, whose aunt was the founder and first county HCE president in Macoupin County. Suzanne spoke on Macoupin's Proud History. Entertainment was performed by singer/guitarist, Patty Ames. It was a wonderful day which was enjoyed by all.

Cultural arts chairperson, Vickie Laughlin, has held several workshops. The most popular was the barn quilts. It was so successful that many of the ladies would like a second class. Vickie also recently held a class on making fall decorations out of splatter-screens.

From Macoupin County, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Carol Rimar



Madison

In August we had our very first fall craft workshop. We had 32 participants and gained 8 new members. Each participant made 8 crafts. We had our International Night during HCE week with right around 100 participants. Our International Director, Eleanor Gregory, planned a program with Italian skits, musicians, and an array of foods native to Italy. A slide show was also prepared with pictures from Italy from one of our members who has been to the country.



We had our first craft and cooking combination class called Le Art Italia on November 15th. 10 participants made bruschetta, pasta salad, and Italian sodas. They also made gold leaf bowls and learned a marbelizing technique using shaving cream and food dye. Finally, we had our Christmas in November earlier this month. It was a successful fundraiser with lots of guests and a great speaker.

We are looking forward to 2023 events which will include our 2nd annual craft camp with theme Crafting Around the World being held January 20th-22nd. Participants will make 13 crafts from all different countries including mandala flower pots, Swedish felt hearts, a Japanese cherry blossom painting, mosaic tile trays, Scandinavian gnomes, a polish straw wreath, and a blue indigo dyeing technique. Interested parties can email me for an application at emhohl@gmail.com

Also planned for next year is a bridal event in February, children's make and take it also in February, and more craft and cooking combinations. We are also extending our painting classes with a feature of holiday themed barn quilts.

Enjoy the season and remember the reason for the season!



Marion

In May, Marion County HCE members and guests enjoyed a program on Barn Quilts. Beth Hays shared the history of how barn quilts began, where they originated and how a community developed a "Quilt Trail" as a result of several women making this a personal project.

The 74th Annual Meeting of Members of the Marion County Home and Community Education was held Monday, May 9, at 1:30 pm at the Marion County Extension Office. Co-Chair Phyllis Henson-Phillips called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Connie Williams led those present in the Pledge to the American Flag and the Club Collect. She then recognized those who have been members for 15 or more years. Wanda Keel, Jean Monical, and Donna Young were recognized as having been members for more than 60 years. Coleen Blomberg, Rosalie Maxey, Dorothy Skaggs, Delane Richardson, Naida Uchitjil, Dorothy Bruce, and Jeanette Rich were recognized as having been members for more than 50 years. Phyllis Henson-Phillips was recognized as having been a member for more than 40 years.

Ruth Jones gave the Membership Report. Carrol Murray provided the Last Annual Minutes in the Program Book and gave the Nominating Committee Report. Phyllis Henson-Phillips called for approval of the Last Annual Minutes and conducted the Election of Officers. District 4 Director, Donna Richards, was welcomed to install the Officers. Connie Williams presented the Financial Statement for 2021-2022 and the Budget for 2022-2023. She then remembered Marion County HCE Members Ann Chappell, Freda Chasteen, Ruth Holloway, and Larry Phillips who have passed away since our last Annual Meeting in 2019.

Marion County Homemaker of the Year 2021-2022 Phyllis Henson-Phillips was recognized. Marion County Homemaker of the Year 2020-2021 Helen Leonhardt was also recognized as we did not meet as a group in 2021 due to COVID. After Dorothy Bruce gave the Co-Chairs report, Carrol Murray announced the winner of the beautiful geranium basket door prize was Pat Young. Those in attendance then enjoyed food and fellowship together.

In June a U of I Webinar presented How to Save on Travel. Tami Stevens of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) presented the history of their organization with a power point presentation and shared how to join the organization in July. She also shared some basic information regarding how to begin tracing your ancestry through online sites and providers of public information as well as how to read old census records and other documents. In August, another U of I Webinar shared Happy Hacks for More Positivity.

Austin Fishback, MSW of LifeThrive in Mt. Vernon joined us to discuss mental healthcare and how to recognize specific mental health issues in September and presented the program "You Were Made to Thrive".

Richland

Richland County Homemakers Education Association along with the University of Illinois Extension will be hosting a series of seminars entitled "Preparing for End-of-Life Issues." All meetings will be held at the Olney Library conference room at 6:00 p.m. and are open to the public. The library is located at 400 W. Main in Olney, IL. These are informal gatherings during which presenters will discuss aspects of dealing with a family member's death in ways not normally considered.

The first session will be held October 3 and will feature Roni Steber Lambird, who holds a Masters in Social Work and works through local medical facilities. She will focus on hospice and advanced directives. Next, Sherry Harder, a retired funeral director from Edwards County, will discuss various aspects of funeral preparation.

On October 10, the second seminar will have David Lobacz, a local financial advisor, who will delve into the many aspects of investments. Following will be Travis Hall, a Secretary of State officer, who will concentrate on the different issues of identity and vehicle titles.

The third session will be on October 17, at which attorney Bart Zuber plans to present information dealing with wills, power of attorney, and other legal documents. Julie Hearing will follow with numerous insurance issues. Julie is owner of a local insurance firm.

The final seminar to be on October 24 will center on the topic of banking. Presenter Elizabeth Geier has been a personal banker in the area for several years.

Neither the Richland County HEA or University of Illinois Extension endorse any of the above speakers and speakers will not be offering their services at this event.

The public are invited to attend one or all these meetings. Come with questions as these meetings are structured to have audience input. Registration is not required but is recommended. To register, go online to <https://go.illinois.edu/preparingendoflifeissuesseminarseries>, or call 618-935-2191.



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms



I was so happy to see many of my District 5 ladies at our mini-district meeting on October 27 in Benton. Thanks again to IAHCCE 2nd VP Mary Johnson for motivating ALL of us to recruit and retain members, and it was great to have District 3 Director Karen Cahill visit as well. Our own Becky Belcher, IAHCCE Cultural Enrichment Director from Hamilton County gave an update on the state cultural arts show categories and guidelines. Jane Chapman, NVON President-Elect from Perry County talked about our relationships with NVON, CWC and ACWW and reminded us that we are part of a worldwide network of volunteer organizations helping to improve the living conditions of families around the world. I loved sharing the news from our October state board meeting, reminding you about upcoming deadlines, and hearing about your upcoming events and accomplishments. I encourage any member in my district to attend a mini-district meeting; you do not have to be a county board member to attend.

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

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

Carol Harms

Hamilton

We missed getting an article in the last newsletter so lots to report!

In April, we assisted in serving lunch at Community Safety Day, held Annual Day on April 21, and our Make It and Take It class was a Welcome learner board. This one was so successful, we held a second session.

In May, we helped prepare and serve the funeral luncheon for Hazel Clark, a longtime HCE member and a former Extension 4-H Advisor for many years in Hamilton County. She was three months away from celebrating her 101st birthday.

On June 6, our Annual Picnic at Dolan Lake was well attended. Some White County HCE members and some nursing home and assisted living residents joined us for lunch, BINGO, and a craft. On June 21, some HCE members served as judges for the county 4-H General Projects Show.

In September we revived an abandoned event - a county Arts and Crafts Show held in conjunction with our Fall Festival. We had 84 entries which we think was a good start for the first year and hope to see it grow in the coming years. On September 17, we joined with 4-H to provide a food stand at an estate auction. The auction was held at the farm of an HCE member we lost earlier this year. At the age of 95, Marie Sadler was our last living, continuous paid charter member in our county (since 1961).

Several events were held during HCE Week in October. On Monday, a small group gathered to sew lap robes. On Tuesday, we hosted a Lunch and Learn where representatives from several civic organizations came to tell us about what they do and how others can get involved. International Night was held on Thursday where we partnered with 4-H for their International Night Exhibit opportunity. After judging of the clubs was held, we enjoyed hearing from the foreign exchange student attending our high school this year - who is from Italy! On Friday, the lap robes were delivered and donated to our local nursing homes.

Looking forward to the coming holidays!

Kathy Oglesby

Jackson

The Fall Leaves are Falling with the cold blasts of early Winter Weather. Brr.. This does not bother our Jackson County Ladies. We have been so busy this Fall. We started with an Air fryer cooking lesson in August that was fun and hands on. We began HCE Week with a wreath making class and then moved on to our international lesson on Italy. During HCE Week we had a Quilt Raffle. Evelyn Legendre from Buttons and Bows won the Quilt at our International Lesson on Italy. What a whirlwind of a week it was! Just like the swirling Fall leaves.

We will be preparing Christmas Cards for Veterans and Nursing facilities in the local area during November. And then we will move into the Holidays with celebrations. All of our units prepare and donate their time and various items to the Warming Centers, Children's Programs and feeding programs around the area. Our ladies are always looking to see that everyone is cared for in Jackson County. 2023 will find us sharing lessons at HCE and looking around our community to see what more we can do to serve!



Jefferson

Greetings Friends,

We hope everyone is enjoying the pretty colors of autumn.

In July our lesson was on Raising Butterflies and Butterfly Garden Tour at Judy's, an HCE member's home, we also enjoy an outdoor lunch. The lesson was well attended. Judy shared her knowledge on raising butterflies, showed us her gardens, shared seeds, and plants, and provided us with beautiful surroundings to hold our meeting, lunch, and lesson.



In August our members donated cookies for the 4-H BBQ. We also enjoyed an outdoor lesson at Lavender Hills Farm; the owners gave us a wonderful tour and a great program. Lavender can be for Sleep, Relaxation, and Health. Also in August, we held a Canvas art Doodle event. Sharpie pens were used to create interesting patterns on the canvas items.

In September JCHCE provided a meal for the Lifeboat Alliance Family Shelter. September's lesson covered Women and Pain Medicines; it included information on the different types of pain medicine and the correct dosages. This was useful information when dealing with pain. JCHCE participated in a city-wide yard sale; members donated many items and help set up and clear out. It was a very successful fundraiser; this was our third year participating, and we are already planning for next year's sale.



In October we celebrated HCE week. We used the theme "Aspire to Inspire"-To positively influence an individual into action. Several suggestions were given to motivate members to try something different. One suggestion was to learn about a new country. Our country of study this year was ITALY. On international day we enjoyed an Italian-inspired lunch, which was followed by a visual tour of Italy. Another suggestion Try a New Creative Art Form. Sarah Mae Waite hosted crafting with wine corks class; members painted and glued together the corks to create their choice of a snowman, a pumpkin, a Christmas tree, a Santa, or an elf hat. For some of the ladies, it was their first time using a glue gun. We collected donations for a local food pantry, and baby items for Best Beginnings.

We all wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season

Johnson

The Johnson County HCE members planned and carried out a fundraiser on Saturday, July 30, and Sunday, July 31, held at the Vienna High School. They provided a delicious dinner on Saturday and a lunch on Sunday, prior to the performances by "The VHS Summer Intensive Production" summer theater group. "School of Rock," based on a 2003 film, which was performed by local youngsters. The menu for both meals included Italian beef sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, beverages, and eighteen varieties of desserts baked by HCE units.

The cast members, in costumes, provided a promenade around "The Commons," during the meals, while diners enjoyed listening to the sounds of the tunes from the musical, with it's music provided by Andrew Lloyd Webber, of "Phantom of the Opera" fame.

HCE Board President, Natalie Dougherty, said, "The fundraiser was a smashing success!" as she thanked the HCE members of the three units for their assistance. The proceeds will go for the scholarship project of the HCE.

Massac

Massac County has been very busy the last few months. In May was our first Benefit Garage Sale. **Thank you to everyone** who donated items, helped organize, worked during the sale, and cleaned up! We will have a final report at the June Council meeting, but we made approximately \$750. We had one pickup load of items remaining that was transported by Don Parr to Goodwill in Lone Oak. Thank you to all the gentlemen who helped with setup and thank you to Rozann for making all the arrangements with the Massac Community Center.

Massac Co. HCE & Extension Facilities Scholarship worked together to provide scholarships again for the graduating seniors in the county. The winners this year were: Claire Bremer, daughter of Elizabeth & Joel Bremer; Max Bremer, son of Elizabeth & Joel Bremer; Isabel Hawes, daughter of Becky and Doug Hawes all of Massac County High School. The winners from Joppa High School were: Rachele Cox, daughter of Reggy & Karen Cox; Cadence Mescher, whose guardian is Elizabeth Gould.

The one time **Terry Hutcherson memorial Scholarship** winners were: Hailey Edwards, daughter of Brian & Charlene Edwards, and Braden May, son of Jason & Angie May. Both students are seniors at Massac County High School.

County HCE 75th Anniversary : "Aspire to Inspire"

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Massac County HCE on August 20th! It was good to share memories of events and ideas from the past. A special thank you to our guests for making the day even more special. Guests who attended were: Angela Hicks, IAHCE President; Becky Belcher, IAHCE Cultural Enrichment Director; Carol Harms, IAHCE District Director; and Janel Kassing, IAHCE International Director.

Special thanks also to Terra Temple, Metropolis Planet, for all her help with publishing the articles to inform the community about our anniversary.

New members for 2022 who were honored include: Amber Hunt, Suzanne Sanders, Brenda Martin, Beverly Warfield, Raye Kelly, Sandy Robins, and Evelyn Tanner. Those who received CVH Certificates were: Anita McConnell, Sharon Huffman, Alice Shelby, and Norma Korte. Long-time members recognized were: Anita McConnell (35 years), Mary Wessel (45 years), Judy Parr (48 years), Mary Lou Stratmeyer & Betty Travis (72 years). The scholarship winners were announced and a time to honor those members we have lost in 2021-2022 was held during the event. Those members were: Dorothy Burklow, Ellen Ruth Bremer, & Alfredia Horman.



2022-2023 HCE Council officers were installed. Mitzi Borum will be the new HCE secretary. There are several officers who are willing to let someone have a turn. Please let one of them know if you are willing to volunteer for an officer role. Thank you to all the HCE council members for helping organize the event, and thank you to the Volleville Unit members who took care of food, decorations, etc. Thank you to Rozann Wilkins, Brenda Langford, and Norma Korte for making the scrubbies, Judy Parr for getting "Green Cleaning" handouts and the Ticks bookmarks and books, MarLi's for the decoration used on the serving table, and the informational corn, soybeans, & dairy postcards given by the Volleville Unit.

Other Events year:

The Apple lesson at Dixon Springs Experiment Station on September 13, given by Bronwyn Aly, U of I Extension Educator, was great! The 25 members and guests in attendance learned a lot about the different varieties of apples, how to care for them, and enjoyed the fellowship during lunch at Shotgun Eddie's.

International night was a big hit! All who were able to attend enjoyed learning more about Italy, France and enjoy the wonderful meal. We also enjoyed musical entertainment by Judy Yetter of Paducah while we ate. After the meal, we watched the video that Debra Korte and Claire Keating presented on the two countries of study. Thank you to Melissa Simpson and her family for organizing a great experience.

Craft Event was well received on October 11, during HCE Week. We had two guest and 10 members to attend, with three instructors. Everyone really enjoyed the crafts, and it was suggested to try and have a similar event in the spring. Thank you to Carol Kent, Judy Ferguson, and Mina Haverkamp for sharing their talents as instructors.

Judy Ferguson reported that in September 214 Labor of Love Word Search pages & favors were given to the Care Facilities in the county. At our October board meeting 43 Veteran's Bags were prepared. The bags will be given on November 11, to the Veteran's in all the Care Facilities in the county.



Monroe

Monroe County HCE continued to support our local House of Neighborly Service, with food donations for their “Free Summer Lunch Project.” Over 8,000 lunches were served to students in Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker and Prairie Du Rocher. We are always proud to assist in this enormous effort.

The busiest part of the summer was our beverage and snack stand at the Monroe County Fair. As the Fair grows larger and larger, we enlisted the help of members of the Farm Bureau’s “Ag in the Classroom” (AIC) organization. These young members helped during our very busy evening hours. We netted a grand total of just under \$6000, a portion of which went to the Ag group for their help. Donations to our “Tip Jar” during the fair earned us an amazing \$522.74, which we are donating to two county organizations: St. Paul United Church of Christ’s “Martha’s Kitchen” and Monroe County Human Support Service.



In September, we collected lightly-used and new books for pre-school and elementary students. These much-appreciated books were presented to the local Head Start program as part of HCE week.

In other HCE Week activities, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners officially proclaimed October 10 through 15 as HCE Week in Monroe County at their October 3rd board meeting and we once again provided delicious goodies for these commissioners.

Our cultural arts contest is always part of the week’s activities, and this year eight beautiful entries were chosen for the IAHCE con-



Perry

Perry County Fall Happenings

Fall has brought many opportunities for gathering with Perry County HCE friends. In September, 50 members and friends went on a bus trip to Casey, IL (where many of the World’s Largest items are) and to see “The Patsy Cline Story” at the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL. Our August yard sale, combined with the Pinckneyville Threshermen Show, brought in \$1100 to help support our two scholarship funds.

In September, Perry County hosted a Unit 26 Multi-County Get Together at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. All HCE members from Perry, Jackson, Franklin, Williamson, and Randolph counties were invited to attend for a day of education, food, fun, and inspiration. The local DAR presented a flag folding demonstration; occupational therapists showed us the benefits of Theraputty for strengthening hands; a civic leader spoke on ways we could all Aspire to Inspire; we played the Price is Almost Right; and three local musicians had us tapping our toes! It was nice to be able to gather together again.

For HCE week in October we held our first ever Block Party...quilt blocks, that is. 13 participants cut square blocks, ironed, sewed donated materials to create a patchwork quilt top to be given away with the Pinckneyville Pay it Forward program for families in need. The second time the group met, they finished the first quilt top and have another one well underway. The volunteers had so much fun they decided to become a unit of their own, the Block Party Group, that will meet just to cut and sew patchwork quilts every second Wednesday of the month. Anyone is welcome to join! All these quilt tops will be machine quilted and donated to the community.

Pinckneyville is celebrating its 100th Mardi Gras on October 29th. Perry County HCE will have a booth at the huge vendor fair that morning to sell our quilt raffle tickets, pass out pens, and spread the word about our organization. That evening, Illinois' oldest nighttime parade takes to the streets. We are currently planning our Holiday Idea Day party for November 1st, 2022. "Sweet Nostalgia" is the theme, and it will focus on old fashioned candies, holiday treats, and toys. The winner of the beautiful Christmas quilt will be drawn at the party.



Randolph

Members of the Randolph County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) met October 13 at the Eagles Hall in Chester for their 77th annual meeting. The HCE Country of Study for 2022 was Italy. Winnie Rehmer of the Red Bud Nite Unit gave a presentation of her recent trip to that country.

Election of officers was held and they are: Charlene Woods of Red Bud, president; Joan Wiegand of Red Bud, first vice; Carol Harms of Red Bud, second vice; Shirley Hohgreffe of Chester, secretary; Jeanne Stamm of Red Bud, treasurer; Donna Wetzel of Red Bud, Community Outreach/Family Issues chair; Janel Kassing of Red Bud, Cultural Enrichment Chair; Cheryn Sutton of Steeleville, Ways and Means chair; Shirley McCormick of Ellis Grove, International chair and Jane Lucht of Red Bud Public Relations chair. The officers were installed by Donna Richards, HCE District 4 Director. During meeting, the McCormick family of Ellis Grove was introduced as the Farm Family of the Year for Randolph County HCE. Carol Harms presented them with the award.



The HCE membership is open to all women. Currently, there are two units-Red Bud Nite and Wine Hill.

Farm Family of the Year announced

During a recent meeting of the Randolph County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE), the McCormick Family of Ellis Grove was introduced as the Farm Family of the Year for Randolph County HCE. Members of the family that attended were Paul and Shirley McCormick, senior partners, their son, Jack and Stacy McCormick and grandson, Jared McCormick, who are all involved in the farming operation. The farm was started in 1941 by Henry McCormick and Jared is the fifth generation to farm on that farm. They own 405 acres and rent 1,300 more. Some of their rental arrangements date back 50 years with many generations of the same family. They raise corn, soybeans, barley and wheat crop fields and have beef cattle. Their beef is sold to Schuberts in Millstadt and Eckerts in Belleville. Not only are they involved in farming, they are also active in their church and community. Paul and Jack are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis Grove. They have served in various organizations. Shirley is a 25-year member of the HCE and is active at St. John's Lutheran Church in Chester. Jack is currently vice president of Gateway FS in Red Bud. Stacy is a manager at Walmart in Chester. Jared is 20 and is active in the Randolph County Farm Bureau Young Farmers.



White

As we reflect on our last 2 years has been challenging times for all of us, but together H.C.E. White County Members has met many of our Community needs. We stayed strong and made positive changes and attitudes in our communities by being an inspiration to others and gave hope to those who are not as strong as we were. We inspired others by showing our community together we became stronger and more determined to show our community what a great organization our White County Home Community Education was during their time of needs. In the year ahead our world and our communities are going to need our strong inspirations. I have been inspired myself by members who have been there for me during this years difficult days. Challenges makes us more determined to be more inspiring to others on our Journey thru 2023. Volunteers and Donors are critical resources. What we do with these precious resources is even more critical. Far from being "Transactions" we must approach every single interaction as an opportunity to listen to, learn from, and support hose around us, from those who serve, to those who help serve, It's a mighty task. LT. COL. James H Dolittle said There Is Nothing Stronger Than The Heart Of A Volunteer. Our White County Members Community helped our community Nursing Home workers and residents how inspiring they are to us by taking snacks and treats to them this month. We are working on our Christmas Gift Bags for our Nursing Home Veterans. Thanks to all members we were able to help so many this year not just in our community, but many disasters outside of our community who needed us in their time of needs by taking much needed supplies during their disaster.



Williamson

There are four units in Williamson County and the county president, Judy Cox, approved featuring the very active Crab Orchard unit for our county news for the December IAHCe newsletter. This past month ladies of Crab Orchard unit of Williamson County, have been making lap quilts for Williamson County in District 5 police so they can use them at accidents or other emergencies, along with a few stuffed animals. Orders for the Annual Thanksgiving bake sale are being taken until November 15th to pre-order and pre-pay. Pick up will be November 23rd. All proceeds will be given to the Shop with a Cop program. The regular monthly meeting for November 10th, will have guest speakers from the WCFP #3 fire department to discuss fire safety. They were supposed to be here last month, btu we were under a red flag warning, meaning High Fire Danger! November 12th and 13th, the Crab Orchard Unit along with volunteers from the three other units in Williamson County, will be at the Oasis Mall in Marion. The county is having a membership drive and bake sale.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The IAHCE Nominating Committee interviewed potential candidates for the IAHCE Board in October. The following individuals will be placed on the ballot for the Conference Business Meeting, scheduled for March 15th, 2021

1st Vice President

My Name is Kathy Peterson - Candidate for IAHCE 1st Vice President.

I was District #2 Director for 5 years. I have held several positions on Grundy County Board: International Director, 1st Vice President, Secretary and currently President. I set up Bingo and Adopt a Resident at Park Pointe Nursing Home, set-up the Can Crusade, and I am collecting of HCE History for Road to 100th celebration.

I work at Pilot truck stop (4 years) and continue to fill in at the Hampton Inn (25 years). I am the primary care taker for the elders in my home. In my spare time I enjoy Hand bells, the Flute and Saxophone, puzzles, book club participant, coloring, word search and my outdoor cats



Treasurer

My Name is Melissa Chitwood - Candidate for Treasurer.

I have been married to my husband Jamie for 33 years. We have three adult children and three grandsons. My family is my life. I enjoy camping and being retired after working 30 years for the University of Illinois, the last 15 at the beautiful Allerton Park and Retreat Center.

I have a drive and a passion for wanting to see the IAHCE continue and grow. My three years of serving as treasurer on the State Board has provided me with a lot of insight into how the board works together and what other board members' responsibilities are. These three years have also provided me with a more in-depth understanding of the financials of IAHCE and the balancing act that goes along with it. I am looking forward to tackling the job for another term.



Public Relations

My Name is Emily McDowell - Candidate for Public Relations.

I have been married to my husband Ryan for 14 years. We have four dogs and a cat. I work full time for HSHS as a referral specialist, getting pre-authorizations for Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants throughout the whole state of Illinois. I also sell Pampered Chef and LulaRoe in my spare time, have a booth at two antique malls, and am in charge of the women's ministry at my church.

I have been the public relations director for my county for the past six or seven years and currently sit as the secretary for my local unit. These past three years have brought me a lot of knowledge of the interworking of IAHCE. Through this organization I have met many wonderful ladies. I have enjoyed compiling your newsletter and giving your counties ideas on promoting HCE. I feel like I finally have a good grasp on what needs to be done and would love the opportunity to continue in this role for another three years.



CVH/Sales

No nominations were received by the October 1 deadline. A nominee for this position must be able to use Microsoft Word (for numerous reports and awards) and Excel (to keep accurate records of all members' volunteer hours). The CVH/Sales Director is responsible for researching, ordering, and selling IAHCE merchandise via mail order and at the annual conference (which requires a dependable vehicle and ability to lift heavy boxes).

An interested candidate must apply to the Nominating Committee at least 72 hours prior to the IAHCE Conference business meeting and be interviewed by the Nominating Committee. If determined to be qualified, the applicant may be nominated from the floor by a voting delegate during the IAHCE Conference business meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Carol Harms, chair, Melissa Chitwood, Janel Kassing, Donna Richards, Becky Thomas

Important Dates to Remember

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 14 – 16, 2023—Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham

IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

August 8th, 2023— District 4 and 5 - West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon

August 9th, 2023— District 3 – Southern View Chapel, Springfield

August 10th, 2023— District 1 and 2— Mt Carroll Church of God, Mt Carroll

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK (NVON) CONFERENCE

July 18-20, 2023 – Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg, West Virginia

ACWW TRIENNIAL

May 17-23, 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Hosted by the Women’s Institute of Pahang and Her Majesty Queen Azizah of Malaysia

REGISTRATION ENDS DECEMBER 31ST– REGISTER AT <https://acww.org.uk/2023-world-conference>



This past July a large number of our IAHCE State Board and IAHCE members went to the NVON conference in Evansville, Indiana. We spent three days attending workshops, meeting women from across the US, and site seeing. Save the date for next year’s NVON conference which will be held in West Virginia.

Congrats to the following District Workshop Winners!

Scholarship Winners:

District 1– Sally Loepfer of Jo Daviess

District 2– Karen Crull of McLean

District 3– Linda Sicklau of Sangamon County

District 4– Debbie Geier of Richland County

District 5– Vickie Hobbs of White County

Newsletter Winners:

Judy West of Mercer County

Sandy Henke of Lake County and
Kathy Peterson of Grundy County

Linda Riva of DeWitt County and
Sandra Cameron of Prairie Association

Rosalee Pearce of Wayne County

Ann Collins of Williamson County and
Donna Wetzel of Randolph County



IAHCE SUPPORT FUND

What does “Support” mean? According to <https://www.merriam-webster.com> the word support has multiple meanings, a few of which are:

- to promote the interests or cause of
- assist; help
- to pay the cost of
- to provide a basis for the existence or subsistence of

The IAHCE Support Fund embraces these definitions and seeks to enhance HCE activities and events throughout the state.

Did you miss the June 1 for 2022? That is okay, you can be planning and hosting your event now and **submit an application at any time before next year’s due date of June 1, 2023.** You can even plan your event and submit the application based on a budget. The event does not have to be completed PRIOR to the application. If your application is selected to receive an award you will be required to submit receipts, present a display and write an article for The Chronicle before the award will be paid out.

Did you know that if you plan to present another program/project, you may complete a separate application?

Look for future articles listing previous projects to “Inspire” counties to build off of and create new, enthusiastic initiatives to promote HCE in your county and throughout the state.

Vincent Van Gogh said, “Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

I say, “We are as one. Let us create ideas, share ideas and prosper as a whole, while using the IAHCE Support Fund to continue to provide quality programming for our membership.”



During the June IAHCE Board meeting committees were formed for the planning of our 100th Celebration in 2024. A few of the committees are fundraising/sponsorships, invitations, displays (such as historical), share shops, speakers, entertainment and a few more (we don’t want to give all the details away!) If you are interested in joining a committee to help plan this centennial event please let Melissa Chitwood now by email at mchitwoo@illinois.edu

This is our state celebration and it would be wonderful for members all over the state to have a part in the planning process.

Also, donations in support of the 100th Anniversary Celebration may be mailed to:

Melissa Chitwood
IAHCE Treasurer
1408 East 2250 North Road
White Heath, IL 61884

Please make check payable to IAHCE and note in the memo field 100th Anniversary.

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR
HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION**
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Deadlines for Articles- April 1, July 1, November 1

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