

THE IAHCCE CHRONICLE

Aspire to Inspire



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NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

Angela Hicks - *Positively Your IAHCE President*



Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

“There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of all. Without creativity, there would be no progress, and we would be forever repeating the same pattern.”

Edward de Bono-Physician/Psychologist

The 2022 IAHCE 98th Annual Conference “Aspire to Inspire” was recently held in Effingham. It was such a joy to be among the many HCE members and friends once again! Just seeing how happy everyone was to be back together again was inspiring!

The conference brought together members of 48 counties and visitors from 2 states! We were honored to have Loy Walker, CWC USA Chairman, and Linda Gause, NVON Conference Co-Chair in attendance. Each shared insight into both organizations as well as inviting members of IAHCE to attend their respective conferences this year. You are a member of each of these organizations through IAHCE and welcome to attend either and/or both conferences! The NVON Conference will be July 25-27 in Evansville, Indiana; information and registration forms are available on their website: nvon.org. The CWC USA/ACWW USA Area Meeting will be September 20-22 in North Little Rock, Arkansas; information and registration forms are available on their website: cwcusa.org. Each of these conferences gives all of us an opportunity to meet and learn from volunteers in others states who have similar if not the same goals as we do. Hope to see you at one or both of these conferences!

Grand awards were given as well as “The County of the Year” in two categories were announced. It makes one proud to hear and see how even during the toughest of times of a pandemic, our members found the energy to participate, the heart to give of themselves to help others in need, maintain their membership, and gain new members! The IAHCE Board commends all of the counties, whether you applied for an award or not, for participating, learning, sharing, and giving back to your community. Each member makes our organization a success and relevant to Illinois! We also recognized the County turning 100 this year. Congratulations to Bureau County, District 1!

Last year I visited 11 counties and I do hope to visit more of you this year. IAHCE reported the membership held steady with minimal loss and much gain. IAHCE ended 2021 with 66 of 67 counties; 4,344 members; 299 actual gains; and a net loss of 184! The counties reported approximately 232 projects with 208 community organizations; this does not account for the number of individuals served through these organizations. The IAHCE Board congratulates you on a job well done!

We want to thank **Norma Korte**, IAHCE 2nd Vice President; **Sonya Bishop**, IAHCE Cultural Enrichment Director; and **Sharon and Clarence Middleton**, IAHCE Webmasters for their dedication and service to IAHCE. They truly are special people and deserve recognition for serving on the IAHCE Board. We wish each of them much rest and relaxation in their “retirement” from the Board!

We welcome **Karen Cahill**, Macon County, to the IAHCE Board as the District 3 Director. We welcome **Becky Belcher**, Hamilton County, to the IAHCE Board as the Cultural Enrichment Director. We welcome **Mary Johnson**, Sangamon County, to the IAHCE Board as the IAHCE 2nd Vice President. Congratulations to you all! I will begin training as the IAHCE webmaster in the near future! I also would like to thank the Conference Chairs, Mary Johnson and Eleanor Gregory, as well as the IAHCE Board on a job well done! It takes a team of talented and dedicated people like you to make the conference a success! Thank you! I challenge each of the members throughout Illinois to continue to think positively, think creatively, share what you have learned, and most importantly, continue to build membership in HCE!

Angela Hicks
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EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st VICE PRESIDENT - Mary Eustace

The first blooms of spring always make my heart sing! What a wonderful conference we just had in Effingham. All the state board members worked very hard to have a successful conference. I believe it was a renewal effort after not having a conference the previous year. If you ever can attend an annual conference, you would love the enthusiasm and the education you would receive by attending.



At the conference, my 1st Vice President workshop voted on what programs of interest the University of Illinois Extension can develop for lessons for the 2023 season. Also, my packet to all counties included a master copy of the lessons on the President's First Ladies. I do hope you all enjoy those lessons.

If you have any ideas on lessons for development or any ideas for Share Shops for next year at conference, please don't hesitate to contact me. I love your suggestions.

Bring joy, happiness and comfort to another person today as life is good and there are so many blessings, we can enjoy with this day we live in.

Sincerely,

Mary Eustace
Celebrate our Past and Awaken our Future



2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

I love new challenges and am excited to take on a new role as 2nd Vice President for IAHCCE. I was so excited with this new challenge; I ran over my two-minute time limit during my speech at our Business Meeting. No one who knows me was surprised! Following is an expanded version of the speech. The picture of me is my introduction at the beginning of conference. The 2nd picture is of Denali, the tallest peak in North America. My mom and I traveled there last summer and were fortunate to see her in full glory. Less than 10% of people who travel to Alaska get to see the full mountain. It was an amazing day!



I love new challenges and I love to travel. I have my boots on, I'm ready! One of my favorite places to visit is Alaska. A must-see is always Denali. Last year I visited and got to see Denali in her full splendor. Not only did we get to see the mountain from our hotel, we also got to fly around the peak in a little red plane. While flying around her peak our pilot pointed out the base camp that teams and their guides use each summer to face the challenge of hiking to the top of Denali.

I was a district director for three years and I've heard from every county I've visited about challenges that HCE is facing; getting new members, getting members to step up into leadership positions, keeping members interested in lessons for living, cultural enrichment, you get the idea. When you look at all those challenges together, it almost seems like HCE is facing our own Denali. Let's look a little closer.

I believe together we can meet the challenge of attracting new members head on. This past year

during COVID, 39 of our 67 counties gained new members. We have a world hungry for what HCE has to offer and together we can brainstorm some simple ideas to attract new members.

When we attract new members, that leadership challenge will take care of itself. I point to your HCE state board as proof. Most of us had only been HCE members for a year or less when we stepped into leadership roles in our units and counties. New members, new leadership – we're building momentum!

We're **Meeting at the Crossroads**, OUR basecamp. Every member is part of the team, your state board members are your guides. Women can **Celebrate Around the World** because of the generosity of our members. Because of the **Power of our Past, HCE is a Beacon to the Future**. We shine the brightest when it is the darkest - and we've been shining these past two years! HCE has learned that **CHANGE is to GROW** and because we did **GROW, we have BECOME** a better organization.

So now my beautiful butterflies, it's time to get *YOUR* boots on. Together, let us **ASPIRE to INSPIRE** the next generations of HCE members. One step at a time, we're getting to the top together.

Thank you.

Mary Johnson, 2nd Vice President



SECRETARY- Cathy Eathington

Hello to all IAHCe Members! It was so great to see all your happy faces and smiles at the Annual Conference on March 15-17 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Thank you for re-electing me to be your State Secretary for the next three years. I have learned so much serving on the State Board the past three years and expect to learn many things in the next three years.



The IAHCe 100th Celebration is in March 2024. We need many state members to help with this. Please consider volunteering by contacting Melissa Chitwood, chairman, at 217-493-4441 or President Angela Hicks at 847-922-2758.

District Workshops will be held in August. We will start with District 1&2 on August 9th in Sycamore. District 3 will be held on August 10th in Springfield. District 4&5 will be held August 11 in Effingham.

IAHCe Week is October 10-15, 2022. Mark your calendars for the 2023 Annual Conference on March 14-16, 2023 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. If your County is having trouble getting officers or members, please contact your District Director. They will gladly come to your County to help you.

Have a safe and fun spring and summer. See you in August.

Cathy Eathington



TREASURER- Melissa Chitwood

What a wonderful conference we had in March! I enjoyed putting names and faces together, reconnecting with friends and making new friends! I sincerely hope you found inspiration during the conference and will continue to Aspire to Inspire, not only throughout the rest of this year but for the rest of your life. You never know who you are inspiring. Don't stop being someone's inspiration.



How are you doing on your membership challenge that our President Angela Hicks presented to us last year? Now that the Covid restrictions are lifting, let's get to work and show her we can do this! Events that we could not control do not define us. We can't continue to look in the rearview mirror and blame Covid. We have to look forward to what is in front of us. Grab your sunglasses; I think there is a bright future in store for IAHCE! John F. Kennedy once said, "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." Have you decided to try to increase your membership? Oh, I can hear the grumblings now, "We have tried". Then try something different. When you think about an event you hosted, including pre-Covid events, take a hard look at why it did or did not work. Look at the pros and cons of your event and examine what can be done to eliminate the cons from your list and make it better than before! Failure happens, but so does growth. Hence, if at first you don't succeed, make a change and try again. The next time may be the best time! The goal of increasing our membership will never be accomplished until we take the steps to make it happen!

One of the best ways to learn is to be involved. One of the best ways to understand is to be involved. One of the best ways to progress is to be involved. How can you be involved? Consider running for the IAHCE board? Open positions include: 1st Vice President (must have previous IAHCE Board experience), CVH, Treasurer and Public Relations. Applications and additional information can be found on the IAHCE.org website. Applications should be sent to the Nomination Chair, Carol Harms, no later than October 1, 2022.

Don't forget to send your Support Fund Application! Applications are on the IAHCE.org website and should be mailed to me, Melissa Chitwood, by June 1.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the District Workshops on August 9th, 10th, and 11th.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." – Helen Keller



Go "spring" into action!

Melissa

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher

The 2022 IAHCE Annual Conference was, in a word, *inspirational!* Well done, Mary Johnson and Eleanor Gregory!

Hi! I'm Becky, your new Cultural Enrichment Director. I am a retired decorative painter. I love God, family, friends, home, and nature. I enjoy outdoor activities, all kinds of arts and crafts, sewing, reading and coffee out on the porch.



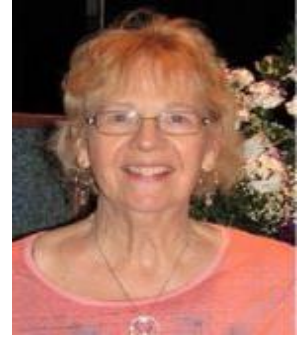
As your new Cultural Enrichment Director, I'm excited to be a part of the IAHCE board ... and a little bit scared. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding while I learn the ropes.

Even though I wasn't in charge this year, I would like to thank all who entered items in the Cultural Arts Show. There were so many beautiful things. Every time I walked through that show, I felt inspired by the talent and time invested in each piece. Keep quilting, crafting, sewing, and making all forms of art, everybody! Hopefully, we'll see lots of it in next year's show.

Becky Belcher



Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory



Hello Everyone!

IAHCE 2022 Conference was another fantastic experience for the ladies that have attended for many years AND for the new ladies! It was wonderful to see all of your smiling faces. Wasn't it great to be together again? The pandemic has taught me to appreciate family and friends and capture those special moments of being together in my memory with lots of help from my phone!!

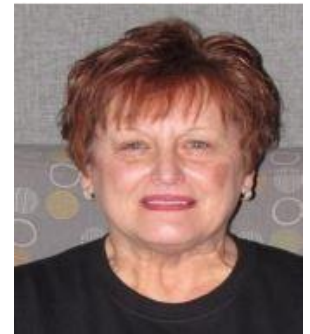
This past Easter my family gathered to honor Kyle Deatherage with a 5K Run (or walk) in Troy, Illinois. We planted a tree and celebrated Jesus's Resurrection.

Already I'm looking forward to the District Workshops to be held August 9, 10 and 11. This will be another chance to gather to learn and share and to gain insight about connecting with our families and communities.

All the best and God bless,

Eleanor Gregory

International- Janel Kassing



Happy Spring to you all!

Loving the warmer temperatures and sunny days. Praying storms jump over Illinois! How exciting to watch new life spring forward! The tulips, daffodils and lilacs are some of my favorites.

Now for some International news. 14 counties entered reports for the International Award. Winning the Special Event category was Kane County for attending and reporting on the CWC Conference held in September in Effingham. Only 3 counties qualified for the \$50 stipend IAHCE offers. This is a fairly easy way to reimburse your county for an International Event. Please check out P. 44 in the Guidebook for more details. If you don't have access, please let me know so I can bring you a copy of the application in August.

Speaking about August, I will be looking forward to seeing you on August 9, 10 or 11, depending on your district. I will announce the Country of Study for 2023. If you have a country in mind, please let me know. Not promising anything, but I'm beginning the process of selecting a country and doing the research on it.

In late June, (I'm going to Florida right after state board meeting) I will be sending you info on bees to coordinate with the ACWW resolution on pollinators. We passed out info on honey at the conference.

If you weren't in attendance, let me know and I'll save copies for you to give you in August. I also have info on another resolution--Iron Deficiency. I have a lesson and a little book featuring FeFe (a Jane Chapman creation) that I wrote. If you need either of these, please let me know. I'll make a pile for August. I'm not sure if I can include this with the bee info in June because of postage restrictions. I know I can have 5 pages double sided for the standard rate. We'll see what I can do.

Several of your state board members will be attending the NVON Conference held in Evansville, IN July 25-27 and the CWC meeting held this year September 20-22 in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Wouldn't you like to join us to learn about these sister organizations? Learning, sharing, crafting, and eating are enjoyed at both conferences.

Please let me know if you need additional info. I suggest that you check with a local Italian restaurant or a Jr. college, college or university for a speaker for your International Event. As you plan your event, make a budget (needed for your stipend report) and take loads of pictures for your international report. I would love to have 25+ reports to judge next January. Look at the necessary forms and plan out your pages to report on your event. Remember, you can report on Italy, our present Country of Study, any other country your county has studied or a report that features another International Event (special activity like Kane Co. did coming to our CWC event in Effingham). Good luck--ask questions. This was my first time too!

Happy Spring, Happy Easter
See you in August
Janel



CVH (CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS)/SALES- Ashley Davis

As I type this, I am looking out my window at the beautiful sunset. What a beautiful picture God has painted! It is so breath taking at times!!

It was so good to be with you all again at the 2022 IAHCE 98th Annual Conference!!! Just know all your smiles were very much inspiring to me!! After being apart due to covid, we all have done a little changing, but who cares. We were all TOGETHER!! I hope you all enjoyed your time and made some wonderful memories.

So, let's talk about those CVH Hours you all turned in for 2021!!! How awesome were the final numbers? As always, I am amazed by all the dedication to our organization and to the communities. A huge THANK YOU to everyone. Below is a recap for our all over the state numbers.

2021 IAHCE Annual All Over State CVH Report
1,598 Members turned in CVH Hours for the State of Illinois
51 Counties Reported CVH Hours for 2021
83 Members turned in 1,000 or more hours
105,032 HCE Hours were turned in for 2021
213,477 Other Hours were turned in for 2021
320,827 Total CVH Hours were reported for 2021 by January 31st, 2022
We handed out 462 Certificates of Recognition
The Dollar Value of each Volunteer Hour is \$28.54
Total Hours for 2021 is 320,827 X \$28.54 = \$9,156,402.58
Total Hours for 2020 is 11,326 x \$28.54 + 2019 1,227 x \$ 27.20 = (12,553) \$356,618.4
The Dollar value of each 2021 Volunteer Hour is \$28.54
Grand Total for 2019-2021 Hours reported= 333,380
Grand Total Dollar amount for 2019-2021= \$41,514,180.98



The Certificates of Recognition have a whole **New** look! You know that we took away the gold seals in 2020, so I put my brain to work (I know scary thought) on how I could change the certificates up. I wanted to make them more eye catching and FANCY. I added some color to them. I hope you all are happy with the changes! I am always open to hear your opinions and any feedback you may have.

As most of you know, March 2023, I will have served 6 years as the CVH/Sales Director. It is time for someone new. I encourage you to run for a position on the IAHCE State Board. It has been very rewarding for me and I have enjoyed being your IAHCE CVH/Sales Director. I am sad that I will be leaving but going with a huge number of memories and friends.

The IAHCE Brochure is back!! The Brochures were a **HOT** item in sales a couple of years ago. These are informative and you will be able to add a label with your county's information on each one. The IAHCE Brochure is a huge marketing tool that your county can hand out at local vendor events, in parades, or even put out at the local Library. If your county would like to order some brochures the cost is 25/\$10.00. I would be happy to mail these to your county. Email, text or call me with your order.

The IAHCE Board members introduced the NEW IAHCE Jacket. These jackets are perfect to wear at meetings where the room is freezing or when it is a little cool out. The jacket is very light weight and comfortable. The jackets are a ladies cut style. You can still order the jackets up until June 8th. I will deliver the jackets to the August District Workshops. The cost of the jackets are:

**Small – X large- \$40.00
2XLarge & 3XLarge- \$45.00**

There is an order form below my article, please mail your check and order form to Ashley Davis IAHCE CVH/Sales Director 1787 N. 1750th Street St Elmo, IL 62458.

Sales also have a NEW IAHCE Logo Car Decal. These decals go on the outside of the window, they are easy to peel off and will not leave any sticky residue on the window. The price of the decal is \$2.00. They make nice giveaways or table favors at your annual meetings.

I hope you to see you all in August at the IAHCE Annual District Workshops.

From my Family to Yours! May God Bless Ya'll. Stay Safe and hope to see Ya'll in August

Ashley Davis



Member Jacket Order Form

Black Jacket with IAHCE Emblem on the left side of chest

Must be paid at the time of ordering

Jackets will be delivered to August District Workshops

Date: _____ County: _____ District: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Price: Small to XL \$40.00 XXL to XXXL \$45.00

Small Qty: _____ Medium Qty: _____ Large Qty: _____ XL Qty: _____

2XLQty: _____ 3XL Qty: _____

Order Recap:

Qty Total: _____ Price: _____ Total: _____

Deadline to order is June 8,2022

Please mail your check to:

CVH/Sales Director

Ashley Davis

1787 N. 1750th St

St Elmo, IL 62458

Public Relations- Emily McDowell

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling 22! This year is going pretty smoothly thus far and I can only hope it continues that way. At the start of this year, I helped organize our county's first craft camp which was a huge success. I can't wait until the next one! The March conference, which happened to be my first as your PR officer, was also a success. For those of you that attended, I'm sure you recognized all of the hard work that Mary Johnson and Eleanor Gregory put into the conference and I'm also sure you all had a great time based on all of the smiling and friendly faces I saw throughout the week. Earlier this month (April), my husband and I welcomed 8 puppies into our temporary family as our Boykin Spaniel, Gaddie, had her very first litter of puppies!



I couldn't believe how much work she did! In fact, I was asleep for the birth of three puppies before waking up and realizing she was in labor! These five males and three females will be going to the following states; Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Georgia and the rest in Illinois. One will be going to Schaumburg, two will be going locally (Livingston and Edwardsville), and we will be keeping one of the females. It has been quite an exciting time!

I am happy to announce the following winners of the PR Contest. Unfortunately, the contest proved a flop, and nobody participated in the manner of which I wanted them to. What I was hoping to see, I didn't see at all and perhaps that's because my instructions were too confusing. The items I received were in book form, very similar to the state awards and so we will not be doing another contest like this in the future, for that reason. I decided to split the prize amongst two counties that presented materials the day of our workshop. They will each be receiving \$25 towards the cost of next year's conference advertisement. The recipients are White County and Perry County. Thank you both for your contribution to the contest!

I hope you all have enjoyed the ideas that were in the conference PR Packet this year. Please let me know if you have done any of them. I did quickly want to point out that all of my ideas were not too be biased or single out a specific individual, group, affiliation, or so on. These were just suggestions and of course I would want your county to expand upon the ideas presented. For example, if you advertise in a church bulletin, you should advertise in multiple religious affiliated bulletins, etc. If you choose to put flyers up in one library throughout your county, you should also advertise in the other libraries across the county, and so forth. If you ever need clarification on a suggestion I have listed, don't hesitate to reach out to me. August will be here before we know it. I hope to see you all then!

SUPPORT FUND REPORT



Who was that mustached man?

Did you happen to see "Uncle Money Bags" during the IAHCE Annual Conference in March? The point of the costume was to bring awareness that there are Support Fund Grants available as well as an updated brochure! The new brochure was included in the March 2022 Treasurer's packet; however if you are interested in personally receiving a copy, please contact Melissa Chitwood at 217-493-4441 or mchitwoo@illinois.edu

The IAHCE Support Fund Trust was established in 1993 and utilizes interest income from investments to provide grants to Illinois HCE counties that provide enrichment and/or additional support to HCE. Due to fluctuating markets, funding availability for awards varies from year to year. More information and applications are located on the iahce.org website under IAHCE Other Guidelines & Forms. The program/project may be in the planning stages but must be completed before the award can be paid. Remember, **applications are due**

June 1.

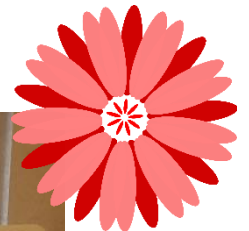
Congratulations to this year's recipients of Support Fund Awards

- Jefferson County – Purchased a printer to get information out during the pandemic when they could not get into their Extension Office. This allowed them to provide newsletters, lessons, and share plans for community donations. Their donations supported the food pantry, The Amy Center for Abused Children and a local nursing home, all which promote the impact that HCE has on their community.
- Randolph County, for their “haunted lighthouse” light post display. They presented an article in their local paper with their display and explained that they had used the IAHCE theme for their display. Their display encouraged 4 new members to join!
- IAHCE Workshops – to provide educational materials throughout the state and encourage counties to increase membership.



Pictured is Uncle Money Bags (aka – Melissa Chitwood) who was handing out gold (chocolate) coins to promote the IAHCE Support Fund.

Below is the Support Fund display at annual conference (left to right – Randolph County, IAHCE Support Fund, Jefferson County and IAHCE District Workshops).



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The **IAHCE Member of the Year** award honors individual members proven to be Outstanding HCE members in their counties and communities. The District Directors evaluate the Applications submitted and make the final selection. I would encourage counties to submit applications for 2022 by October 1 to your IAHCE 2nd Vice President.

The first member we are recognizing this evening is from District 1. She has been an HCE member for 43 years and has attended conference and District Workshop most of those years. She has been active as a volunteer, Friend of 4-H, and her leadership in her county, and has received several awards for the volunteering she has done over the years. District 1 winner is from Rock Island County, Emma M. Hoke.

The next member we are recognizing is from District 3. She is a 52-year member of HCE and has served on the IAHCE State Board in two different offices. She has volunteered at the NVON and ACWW level, was active as Sunday School teacher, and was a member of the Quilt Guild to make quilts for children dealing with cancer. District 3 winner is from Edgar County, Marilyn Daughhetee.

The District 4 winner has been in HCE 8 years and put in over 6000 hours of volunteering in the last 5 years. She is active in her county as Family & Community Issues Director, Bylaws committee, CVH Director and Unit 1st Vice & Secretary. She is active in her county in many different ways. District 4 winner is from Fayette County, Donna Blair.

The District 5 winner has been a HCE member for 47 year and serves on many of the committees at the county level and unit level. She has been Secretary, Treasurer, Scholarship Committee Chair, and prepares the county HCE brochure, and works on the county Face Book page. If any committee or officer needs help she is always there to lend a hand. She has served on the Unit Council, craft camp, community outreach, and International Events. If you need a hand, just call her. District 5 winner is from Massac County, Judy Parr.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR 2021

2021 Report for

Membership:

<u>Special Activity-</u>		District
Stephenson		1
<u>Membership Activities-</u>		
McLean		2
Perry		5
<u>County Most Members Gained or Returned-</u>		
Crawford	50	4
DeKalb	36	2
<u>Percentage Net Gain-</u>		
JoDavieess	0%	1
DeKalb	24.14%	2
Edgar	5.66%	3
Richland	19.77%	4
Randolph	9.84%	5



Grand Award District for % net Gain- District 4 with 1.19% increase

Grand Award for County % Gain- Macon County with 48.42% Gain District 3

Grand Award for Special Activity- McLean County for “Membership & Friendship Roundup”

DISTRICT 1 NEWS



DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR - Becky Thomas

The 2022 IAHCCE Conference is on the books, and I was very happy to see the members again. The Share Shops were interesting, fun and full of information. Thank you to all of the presenters. It amazes me the things that people collect or the knowledge that they share of something they are passionate about. The State Officer packets have more information than just the duties of that office. I encourage these to be shared at your county meetings and to the units.

I am excited to start going to Annual meetings again. The members are recognized for their accomplishments over the year and set goals for themselves. During the Conference we thought about what inspired us, I used aprons because of the stories they create. I think that the District 1 members know that they are my inspiration for HCE. I look forward to the summer activities. Please continue to stay safe!

Jo Daviess

In our county Newsletter The Splinters, we have started a column called "What have you been up to" so units can share with their other county units on their activities. Following are two Projects that the Hills Unit and the Eureka Unit completed, as well as a Holiday donation project to the Iowa Veterans Home by Derinda and Hills, remarkably busy members.



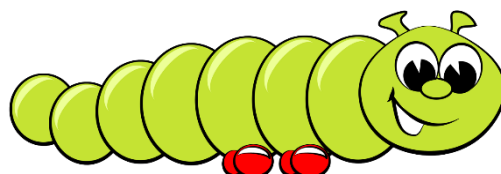
The Eureka Unit was busy this past month making washcloth snowmen and delivering them to the nursing home in Stockton. They decorated the snowpersons with hearts. The residents appreciated the decorations. Below is pictured the snowmen and the ladies from the nursing home. Standing in center back is Eureka member Charity Burdett. Thanks for the pictures and the idea!

We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting on April 26th and welcoming IAHCCE President Angela Hicks.

Another Unit is doing projects for the community and keeping busy in this cold winter! Below is the Meridian Unit, who made aprons for sale and clothing protectors from shirts. They also collected over 20 lbs. of pop tabs to give to the Ronald McDonald House.



The Hills and Derinda Units collected donated items to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa. The home sent a thank you note for the personal care items, blankets, and clothing items provided by the Hill and Derinda Units. Thanks very much to Libby and Wally Lutes for the delivery of the donations. Members of our units have connections to John Deere, which donates to the Veterans Home.





Units also celebrate the holidays; here is the Hills Unit celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Ann Coppernoll

Rock Island

Spring is Here!! With that we are having our annual geranium sale. This is our major fundraiser for the year. The 4-H clubs that wish to participate sell plants in addition to our HCE members. In turn for 4-Hers selling plants, we give them a portion of the funds raised by their club. This is a great moneymaker for HCE and 4-H. On April 6th, HCE is attending Circa 21 for a matinee lunch and play. The play is a comedy called "Just Desserts". The play is about a bake off at the county fair. How appropriate for the HCE ladies. We can all use a good laugh. Since the geranium sale is our only yearly fundraiser, we decided to try holding a rummage sale. We are still in the planning stage, but we hope this is a successful event that we can pursue next year.

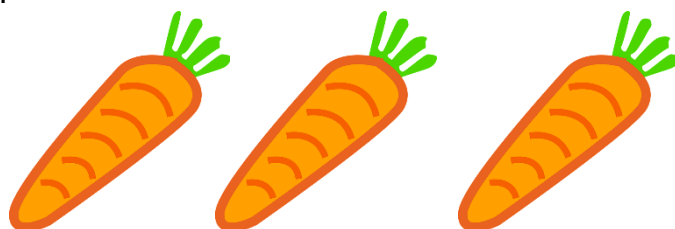


Stephenson

As I write the first part of this article, it's about ten days until spring officially arrives, but tomorrow morning the weatherman is calling for up to twenty below zero wind chills--sounds like January weather!

In December, Stephenson County HCE participated in the annual Festival of Trees, which is sponsored by the Freeport Health Network (FHN). Non-profit organizations are invited to participate in a Christmas tree decorating contest at the Freeport Public Library. This is a beautiful holiday event and a competition, as the groups are competing for prize money for their organization. The theme this year was: **"These are the same stars, and that is the same moon, that look down upon your brothers and sisters, and which they see, though they are ever so far away from us, and each other."** - Sojourner Truth.

The theme for our tree was: **"Making Home Life Better Since 1923"**. The tree was decorated with items representing the kinds of lessons we offer through HCE. All the Christmas trees were on display for the public to enjoy throughout the holiday season.



On Saturday, March 5 we invited the public to the program, *Backyard Birds of Illinois*, at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau in Freeport. Rich Hofmaster, bird enthusiast, along with fellow bird watcher, Patty Weik, showed slides of the many varieties of birds they had photographed right in Freeport or elsewhere in Stephenson County. They talked about the migratory patterns of several different birds, how some birds' feathers can change in color during different seasons, as well as what different birds like to eat. At the end of the program, there was a question-and-answer session.

Six Stephenson County HCE members attended the 2022 IAHCE 98th Annual Conference in Effingham. Our members enjoyed informative share shops and meetings, entertainment, and just visiting with HCE members from other counties. We also had the cultural enrichment show, silent auction and shopping at the many vendor booths. Two of us enjoyed the guided tour of the Effingham County Courthouse Museum. Our members also helped with the silent auction and bingo. One member helped at the business meeting by being a part of the credentials committee.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING!

Janice Fryer



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

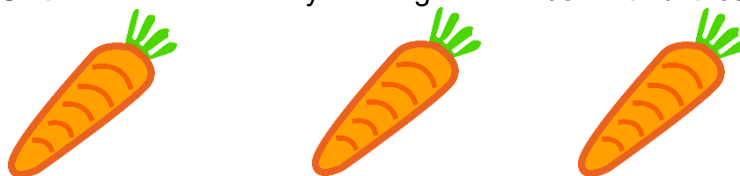
Thank-you ladies for attending the IAHCE Conference in March. It was very inspiring to see and talk with you all. We had beautiful weather and very interesting programs. We are looking forward to all the activities leading to next year and to the 100th Anniversary in 2024. We can't wait to see everyone at district annual meetings and in August at workshops. In the meantime, enjoy being out and about and the warm weather. I'll leave you with this quote, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen nor even touched, but just felt in the heart." Helen Keller

DuPage

DuPage County Lunch bunch is having an easier time finding accommodating restaurants. In February they met at Quincy's (which recently opened) in Naperville. Nineteen people showed up for the gathering. In March they met at Quigley's in Naperville for Saint Patrick's Day month and had thirteen people show up there. In May, the Lunch Bunch is planning a gathering at Stevens restaurant in Woodridge. In June, one of the Pal Joey's restaurants in either West Chicago or Batavia will be the choice.

In March, three members of Du Page County went to the IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham. Our Ethel Marshall Unit's meeting day fell on Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras was celebrated with Paczkis. On April 17th, an Easter Card Workshop will be held at the Extension Office. Our first formal Annual Meeting in three years will be on April 28th at the Courtyard in Warrenville. The past two years were held at outdoor gatherings. The county members helped celebrate the 100th Birthday of Ethel Marshall Unit's Laurine DeMeo by flooding her mailbox with birthday cards.

Mylon Fisher



Grundy



This winter has been something else and never ending. I hope that all of us stayed entertained, keeping spirits high and staying healthy. Keep up the good work. Six of our board members went to the



District 2 Workshop August 12 in Sycamore. The workshop was totally different than usual because of Covid. The board did an amazing job of keeping us attentive sitting for a few hours. Betty Pierce, our board treasurer, was surprised by Kathy Peterson and the board in recognition as member of the year for 2020. This award was supposed to be handed to her during the 2021 conference in Effingham. The surprise was kept from Betty, and she really was surprised at district meeting.

We had our Annual Meeting in Goold Park on August 26, 2021. About half of our members were there. The weather was hot, but the shade was comfortable under the pavilion. Our District 2 Director Rita Overacker came and installed our officers for 2021-2022. Again, we have a full board, which is great.

Megan Walsh from U of I talked to us about the upcoming year. She said things are still up in the air because of Covid, but hopefully things will be coming back to normal by next year. In the coming months we will be looking for lessons for 2022. We are hoping that the extension office doesn't have to close again.

The program at our annual meeting was "Women's Perspective of Policing" given by Morris Police Chief Alicia Steffes. She was recently installed as Chief on May 3, 2021. The department has 27 police officers and currently the department has three women officers on the force, including the chief. We haven't had any concerns interacting with the male officers or comments. She talked about how the police department has changed because of the recent events in the USA. She told us the department does a lot of training when special needs people are involved. We are always updating technology that we never would have thought about years ago. Body cameras, computers in the squad cars, and tasers are just a few new changes. Chief Steffes talked about the recent lithium battery fire in Morris and what was needed to keep the residents safe and the neighboring fire and police that came to help. The chief asked the canine officer to come over with canine 'Niko'. Niko is from the Netherlands and only answers to Dutch commands. Morris police have two dogs on the force and the go home with their handlers. The dogs and handlers have to do 16 hours of training every month. Niko sniffs out drugs and helps when needed. The officer told us Niko loves his tennis ball and will not share with the other 2 dogs in his family.

We hope to go back to regular meetings and that it will get better every day. We are still collecting plastic bottle caps to have a bench made in recognition of our deceased members. Pop tabs are also collected and given to Ronald McDonald House. Backpacks are made up and given to foster children the items included can be socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other hygiene, plus books, puzzles, toys, coloring books, crayons, etc.

HCE Week was a success - aluminum cans were collected toward our 2024 celebration. Thank you & thinking of you cards were written for nurses helping with COVID. We collected miscellaneous items for the nursing home bingo. Our Nettle Creek Unit collected \$100 for We Care of Grundy County in December. The Christmas luncheon was at Starved Rock.



The book club read the following: *Hidden Power* by Kate Marton, *The Memory Keepers' Daughter* by Kim Edwards, *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova, *The Searcher* by Tana French, *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede, *Twelve Days of Christmas* by Debbie Macomber, *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris, *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano, *Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien, and in April will read *The Last Garden in England* by Julia Kelly.



Happy Spring
Monica Evans



Kane

Kane County sent five Board Officers and one mailbox member to the IAHCE Annual meeting, and all came home with “Inspire to Aspire” motivation at high peaks. County members saw the Educational Awards Certificates on display at the March County International Day.

Kane County International Program on March 24 was held at the Aurora Advent Christian Church. Naomi Redman, International Director, presented an excellent Italy program. All members of the board worked together to make the day enjoyable and educational. Thanks to Pat Kowalkowski, a native Italian, Mr. Flavio Cipriani, assisted by his wife, Renee', took us on a slide show tour of his country and particularly to his home town. The tour included geography, food and cultural traditions. Mr. Cipriani was born in Italy and teaches the Italian language at Triton College. Fund raising activities were: a 50/50 raffle, a raffle of a hand-knit afghan by member Virginia Franzen from donated yarns and the “Leisure Time Redistribution” sale of donated puzzles and board games. A luncheon of Italian flavor was enjoyed.

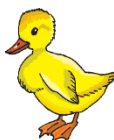


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Preparation for the May 18th County Annual Meeting is in progress. The event will be held at Carmia's in Elgin. District 2 Director, Rita Overacker, plans to install our officers. A plated dinner will be served. “Entertainer Extraordinaire” George Holmes (www.jeorgeholmes.com) will perform in the styles of Sinatra, Presley, and Pavorotti. Contact Nancy at 847-742-3828 or nancyhaire01@gmail.com for details. Deadline for reservations is May 7.

Recycling efforts are continuing. A new Kane County “Recycles Green Guide” is giving us specific guidelines for disposable waste. Reusing is a focus for most of the collections we make with items going to twenty-seven plus agencies. Another membership-seeking activity planned is an all-county potluck picnic in August with members inviting friends and family. Now here in Northern Illinois we are waiting for winter to break in this springtime.

Nancy Haire



Kankakee

The ladies are back to having monthly meetings at the U of I Extension Office with food, coffee, and visiting. Several of the ladies are busy cutting and sewing Autism blankets for the local schools and hospitals. They're still working on walker bags and crocheted lap blankets. We're working on plans for some ideas to get outsiders to be invited to get new members. Plans are being made for our 108th Annual meeting in May and some special events are in the works to be announced later.



Lake



Hello from Lake County,

We have made it through winter and are ready for the warm winds of spring.

The only snow that is left is in large parking lots where the plows created small mountains of the white stuff. Most lakes have thawed, even Lake Michigan is showing less ice.

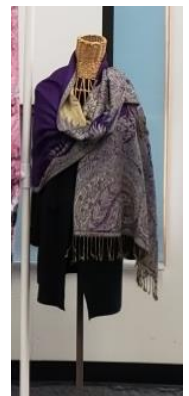
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Since the last newsletter, our county held its Cultural Enrichment Event, ran the end-of-the year fundraiser, planned the lessons and programs for 2022, and gained several members to start the New Year.

Our Cultural Enrichment Director, Pat Weitzmann, and her committee brought us the program "The Little Black Dress". We were asked to wear our black "party" outfits to participate. We learned how the black dress played its part in fashion history and were treated to a fashion show of vintage black dresses. The show was presented by Gloria Venzon of American Unit, who collects vintage clothing as a hobby, supplied the dresses modeled in the photos for the program. Left to right the models are: Jeanlee Roeck, Ellen Bahyon, Sandy Henke, Noël Henke, Gloria Venzon, and Mary Johnson.



Our end-of-the-year fundraiser was another Christmas No-Bake Bake Sale. Our members were very generous in donating and understood the sale conditions were dictated by the pandemic. We did have several people who enjoyed in-person cookie sales tell us they hoped we could return to a real cookie sale this year. We are keeping our fingers crossed. Five of our board members and several unit members attended this year's annual conference. Those of us who could not attend are looking forward to hearing their adventures. Sandy Henke, our treasurer, reported that the Cultural Enrichment items made by herself, Angela Hicks, our President, and Mail Box member Noël Henke received Peoples' Choice Awards for their categories. We are preparing for our Annual Business Meeting, which we hold at the end of April. Our meeting is always informative and entertaining, and we are looking forward to a great turn out .



Stay well and be safe until next time.

Candace Keegan



Livingston

Hello from Livingston County H.C.E. Board. We all have been very busy. Our President Arlene M. and Jean G. attended the IAHCE Conference in Effingham IL on March 15-17, 2022. Eight Cultural Enrichment Projects went with them. Linda Vercler, with embroidery and Phyllis Kestner, homemade greeting cards won purple ribbons. Bloomington had our Super Saturday on March 19. We had 3 lessons including old country schools, a CSA program, and what to look for in your seed catalogs when you order flowers and vegetables. Our Annual Meeting will be held on April 18, 2022. The program will be the Carrolls from Timber Edge Farms of Graymont IL. They will be talking about the vegetables they plant and sell. We are planning for our 4-H fair of 2022. Some of the units have had fun doing their own thing. Rooks Creek Starlights made these cute things and the Pleasant Ridge talked and brought things they collect. The Ladies learned from it and had a great time off. Hoping for warmer weather and the sun to start shining. Have a wonderful Easter and until next time,



Lucille Wiechmann



McLean

Spring is here and early flowers and trees are beginning to show their buds. McLean County units have enjoyed learning about “From Agar to Za’atar” about spices, “Medical Identity Theft” and “Stain Solutions”. The Community Service Days produced 13 children’s flannel blankets and many walker bags. Plans were made to make 150 fabric microwave bowls for the IFYE convention. Members met for Read and Share of *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline and *Fifty Words for Rain* by Asha Lemmie. Fundraising continues - the Old Rugged Barn bake sale was a busy place.

67 members and guests enjoyed the December Holiday Party held at the Chateau – lunch, making crafts, playing Bingo and socializing. The cultural enrichment in January was a play date with games and February included a class on Modge Podge Plates enticed 15. The March experience was for lunch at Busy Corner in Goodfield followed by shopping at Breakers Market in Eureka. In April we anticipate an Architectural tour at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts with lunch at Lucca Grill in downtown Bloomington.



45 McLean and Livingston County HCE members and guests participated in Super Saturday at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington, being educated on future lessons – “History of Country Schools”, “Using Catalogs to Achieve a Successful Garden”, and “CSA: Community Supported Agriculture.” We have explored Canadian provinces Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island and the 3 Canadian territories of Northwest, Yukon and Nunavut.

Eleven members attended and enjoyed the 2022 IAHC Conference in Effingham. Of the many project reports submitted, McLean County was awarded a 2021 Grand winner of County of the Year Award for county with 76 and above members. We also received awards in eleven other categories.



Family Issues/Community Outreach has collected and continues to collect for Fostering Dignity – backpacks filled with toothpaste, soap, facial tissue, shampoo, etc.

The Membership Tea is anticipated on Saturday, April 30 at Christ Lutheran Church to enjoy “Tea with Two Sisters Lavender”, from LeRoy, IL. A spring trip on May 31 will include dinner at Morton’s Cracker Barrel and the play “An Officer and a Gentleman” in Peoria.

The 104th McLean County HCE Annual Meeting with Cultural Enrichment and Fine Arts Show is being planned for July 12. The McLean County Fair, August 3-7, includes Young at Heart Day, August 4, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., being organized by HCE members. YAH includes entertainment, refreshments, door prizes and educational booths of organizations serving senior citizens, where a good time is had by all attendees.

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

See you in McLean County! Come Visit!
Barb Jurgens

Will

We have had a variety of weather conditions: from frigid to warm, from snow to rain, from sunny to gloomy, and from windy to calm. Now that April has set in, let's hope for warm, sunny, and calm days, with a sprinkling, now and then, to wake up all our flowers and plants.



Our President, Gail Shaw, and International Chairman, Andrea Zoelle, recently traveled to Effingham for the IAHCE Annual Conference in March. They last attended the conference in 2020, just before the lockdown. Although they said attendance was down from 2020, they reported that it felt so good to be back meeting with other members, attending programs and dinners, and browsing both the lovely Cultural Arts entries (including the watercolor paintings by our own Karen Marino) and the items offered in the Silent Auction. They both enjoyed the sessions they attended. Gail thought the "Hats, Hats, Hats," presentation was entertaining and brought back memories of the time when everyone wore hats. On the last day, both toured the Effingham County Museum before the long ride home. Gail and Andrea came

back energized and ready to share what they had learned.



The WCHCE Board is meeting in April to finalize the schedule of events for the Annual Meeting, May 10th. The luncheon/meeting will take place at the Will County Farm Bureau. Members are encouraged to bring guests to bolster our membership number, as per the IAHCE "Aspire to Inspire" initiative. Elaine, our Community and Health Director, has asked attendees to bring small pocket-sized toys, such as matchbook cars, for children who are patients of the St. Joseph's Hospital ER. Since our focus this year is Italy, we hope to serve an Italian dessert at this meeting and expand this to the meal in October. Tina, CVH Director, will present state and county awards to our many member volunteers. Carolyn, our First VP, has secured our guest speaker, Grace Grzanek, who will deliver an interactive presentation, "Growing your own Groceries in Containers." The day will be

an exciting and fun day for all.

In the next few months, our University of Illinois Extension lessons will include "How to Save on Travel," "Finding your Get Up and Go," "Happy Hacks for Positivity," "Improved Well-Being," and "Modern Food Trends." Our Board is also exploring new activities for our members such as trips and unique events. The past two years have been trying for all. It's time to inject more involvement and excitement into our organization.

Mary Barrett

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill

Happy spring everyone! After a harsher than usual winter, I think we are all looking forward to warmer weather and all of the joys that come with this season.



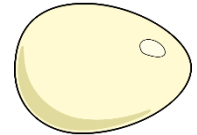
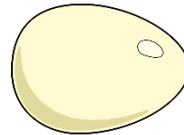
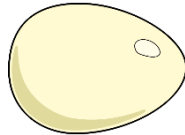
I am excited to be the new District 3 Director and I enjoyed meeting many of you at Conference. It was certainly great to be back! The warm welcome and support you gave me was much appreciated. I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you when I visit you at your annual meetings. Several counties' dates are already on my calendar. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need me to visit and/or install your officers.

For those of you who don't know me, I'll give you a little background. I grew up in Pennsylvania (basically a "city girl"), came to IL to attend Millikin University and have been here ever since. I am a recent widow, have two daughters and six grandchildren. I taught elementary school for 33 years and joined Macon County HCE after retirement. Since I enjoy learning and teaching it's a good fit for me. The day I joined HCE I was also installed on the board as Family and Community Issues Director as well as CVH Director. I held those positions for four years. Then for the next four years I was co-president. I presently still do CVH.

I'm looking forward to this new chapter of my HCE life as I travel across central Illinois seeing places I've never seen, and visiting with you – the interesting, inspiring ladies of HCE.

"If you smile when you see a butterfly, you have happiness in your soul." - Diana Cooper

Karen Cahill



Champaign

During 2022, our county is celebrating our 104th anniversary. Also, we have three units celebrating 104th anniversaries (Dewey/Fisher Unit, Savoy Unit and Somer Unit). Two units are celebrating 102nd anniversaries (Philo Unit and Rantoul Unit). This year is the Mahomet Unit 101st anniversary. We are sorry to see that two of our units disbanded at the end of 2021.

Our 6th Annual Holiday Trees and Craft Sale was held on November 4 & 5, 2021 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium. Several HCE Units had beautifully decorated trees and wreaths for the sale. The sale of the trees/wreaths were sold by silent auction with proceeds being a moneymaker for the Units. Vendors were CCHCE members and non-members selling their handcrafted items. Members also made homemade Holiday baked goods sold during the event. The bake sale profits went to our *weighted blanket project* and proceeds from the entry fee was given to "The Family Room" a nonprofit organization in Champaign-Urbana serving families with foster children or children in transition. CCHCE members have donated needed clothing for the children in the foster program.

Our *International Potluck Luncheon* was held on November 15th with the Country of Study "Canada". The guest speaker was Janel Kassing, IAHCE International Director, giving a power point presentation on Canada. Entertainment for the day was Logan Kirby, popular musician in our area. Box lunches by Piato Café were served.

One of our community projects was making a *Sweet Heart Angel* for Valentine favors for 40 residences of the Illini Heritage Nursing Home in Champaign. The angels were made with a doily, wood bead head and a foam heart for wings. CCHCE plans to make other projects for the residents.

Eight CCHCE members attended the *IAHCE State Conference* on March 15-17, 2022 at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Our county received IAHCE 2021 awards for County with the highest members reporting volunteer hours in District 3 and the highest HCE volunteer hours reported in District 3. Several of our members attended the *IAHCE Road to 100th* committee meeting held at the conference.

CCHCE Book Club has been very successful with members enjoying their monthly book club meetings for breakfast at a local restaurant. Everyone attending enjoys the discussions of the monthly book selection. The women in our sewing group met to continue making and supporting our weighted blanket project. Three of our units also continue to support the Champaign County Developmental Service Center group homes for the mentally challenged adults in Champaign County. The residents at the group homes are recognized on their birthdays and holidays with gift cards and/or non-food items and needed items for the home.

On March 28th, we held our annual *Game Day*. This year we served three kinds of soup and homemade desserts which were enjoyed by all attending. Members and guests attending enjoyed playing Mexican train, Euchre, Gin Rummy, Rummikub, Tenzi! dice game and a few members enjoyed working on puzzles during the event. We had one guest attending join CCHCE and will be attending the Dewey/Fisher unit meetings. Our next Game Day will be on September 28, 2022.

The next event for CCHCE is our *Annual Spring Craft & Plant Sale* on April 28 & 29, 2022 at the Farm Bureau Building, 801 N. Fair Drive, Champaign.

Our website: www.champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com

Carol Froeschl



Carol Froeschl, Melissa Chitwood, Karen Moon, and Bobbie McEntire, playing Tenzi at Holiday Trees & Craft Sale



Lynn Trotter of the Dewey/Fisher Unit Game & Soup Day- Handmade greeting cards

Macon

Greetings from Macon County HCE! We had some very interesting and fun lessons to finish 2021. In November, we had two programs. Don Chamberlain presented a program about “Lincoln in Illinois—The Early Years”. He was a high school teacher and when he retired, he started taking pictures and touring the country. Visit www.decphotography.com to read more. He had pictures with his program and told us about Lincoln from around 1830 to 1837. Our second program in November was “The Latest Trends in Home Decor”, by Grand Design by Peggy. She gave us many hints, such as starting with the flooring and looking at the woodwork when working with paint color choices.



In December, our lesson was “Medical Identity Theft”. There were some good suggestions such as understanding what medical theft is and how it works, learning about the resources that are available if it happens to you, and how it can affect your medical and health insurance records. A lively discussion followed by those in attendance.

There were no programs in January and February at the county level due to the unpredictable weather we have here. Some of our units met, and our county board had our meetings at the Extension Office. Our first program for 2022 was a delectable lesson on “Healthy Desserts” on March 30. This was an excellent program presented by our two board members, Karen Cahill and Mary Ann Platt. They demonstrated two of their recipes, vanilla blueberry chia pudding and easy applesauce cake. They also had handouts with food myths and healthy substitutions as well as many healthy recipes. Of course, we had nine samples of some of the recipes in the handout!! It was a wonderful afternoon!!!

We are pleased to have our own Karen Cahill as District 3 Director. We know she will do a great job and we wish her the best in this new adventure.

We continue to work on the pillowcases for the Ronald McDonald House, as well as the hearts for the parents and babies in the NICU. Parents of these babies wear small flannel hearts against their skin. When the parent/parents cannot be with their babies, these hearts are left with their baby. Bonding continues because the baby still has the scent of the parents with them. Our members at the November 29th sewing day made 450 of these flannel hearts!



Linda Austin



Moultrie-Douglas

The PAHCE Units have continued to meet with some precautions due to COVID. Sixty-eight members had paid dues by January 31, 2022. Six members attended the District meeting in August. The Moultrie – Douglas (Prairie) AHCE members held their fall meeting on October 21, 2021. The morning speaker was the local director of the Dove Program. For several years PAHCE has been collecting personal hygiene items for women & children that are provided to Dove clients as needed. A delicious potluck meal was enjoyed at noon and the afternoon speaker provided information about Spam and Fraud. Friendship Pennies were collected. The Annual Meeting was held on April 21, 2022. The meeting started at 12 noon with the Potluck meal that was enjoyed by all. Following the meal Nancy Burcham gave a very entertaining program about her decision to become an author. She reviewed the books she has written including her latest book, “Laughter with the Older People 101”.

The business meeting was called to order by President Norma Piper. The Financial Report for the past year & the Budget for 2022-'23 were presented by Brenda Pierce and approved. Brenda Pierce presented a Memorial Moment in honor of 8 PAHCE members that had passed away since the last Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee presented the following list of officers: President, Norma Piper; 1st Vice President, Sarah Storm; 2nd Vice President, Ann Short; Secretary, Sandra Cameron; Treasurer, Brenda Pierce; Community Outreach\International, Marilyn Dufford; Family Living\4-H, Ruth Ann McDaniel; Public Relations, Anamary Bicknell and Director at Large, Marilyn Allison. The new officers were installed by Karen Cahill, IAHCCE District 3 Director. She spoke briefly about the IAHCCE theme for the 2022-2023 year, “Aspire to Inspire”. Door prizes of potted plants that the units provided were passed out and the meeting was adjourned. The lessons for the coming year have been chosen and the PAHCE Board is planning some special activities. Displays of PAHCE programs & activities are being planned for the Public Libraires in the local towns.

Anamary Bicknel



Piatt

The Piatt County AHCE began the 2022 New Year by participating in our Annual Cultural Enrichment Day which was held at the Cisco United Methodist Church on January 19, 2022. This meeting began at 9:30 am and ended after 10 of our membership and 2 of our guests ate lunch. All of the foods that were served for lunch included pork and/or squash. Believe it or not, none of the delicious recipes that were collected and served were a repeat of someone else’s contribution. Our speaker, Julie Pangrac, the director of Project Read Plus, a Richland Community College program that teaches Adult Literacy in Reading and Math, talked about adult literacy and its impact on the individual, the family, and the community. The information shared with us and our speaker was so interesting that she spoke for 1 ½ hours instead of the 45 minutes that she initially



planned to speak. We found her presentation enlightening and are planning to check into the needs and possibilities of a similar program being activated in Piatt County.

Our February Skype Lesson: "Cultivating Your Own Blue Zone" had to be re-scheduled for September 22, 2022 due to questionable weather conditions. It will again be offered at the Piatt Co. Extension Office, 201 S. Market St., Monticello, IL.

Piatt County AHCE has applied to participate in the Piatt County Farmers' Market once a month during June, July, August, and September and will be selling kitchen and bathroom scrubbies for \$5.00 each. These cleaning tools are not only cute, but they are strong and easily cleaned by throwing them into the laundry. Each scrubby is about 3 1/2 inches wide. We will also be participating in sending cards to our troops and spreading information about Piatt County AHCE.

Piatt County HCE members attended the 98th Annual Illinois Association for Home and Community Education Conference being held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center and Holiday Inn, Effingham, Illinois, March 15-17, 2022. Frances Kurr, our International Director, is holding up the 2021 Education Award presented to Piatt County AHCE. Two of our Piatt County AHCE members were recognized during this conference for their continual long-term membership in AHCE. This annual meeting is also a chance for our membership to display their craft projects for the 2021 year. We sent 8 projects to the IAHCE Annual Conference, "Aspire to Inspire", on March 15-17, 2022.

Martha Lynch received the top award for the category "Crocheted Afghan". Carol Kussart received the top award for the category "Machine pieced and machine quilted quilt". Carol's quilt was also judged the "BEST OF SHOW". As you all know, our IAHCE Annual Conference kept us all on the move and actively learning new things while we are there. A chance to relax between meetings was welcomed by all.

Kathleen Glenn



Tazewell

Since COVID is slowly subsiding, Tazewell County units are beginning to return to their monthly schedules. February 21st we held our annual Cabin Fever Day with over 30 members and guests attending. We viewed an HCE lesson, "Food and Mood", had a soup lunch, played games, made crafts and put jigsaw puzzles together. Four members attended the annual state conference in Effingham. At that conference we presented a check to be used for the 100th anniversary celebration of IAHCE. Three years ago we made a pledge to give \$100 a year for five years – 3 down, 2 to go! We would like to **CHALLENGE** other counties to make a donation so the 100th anniversary of our IAHCE can be a very special celebration! Our current hope is that our 4-H fair return to "normal" and we can again have our food stand to feed the hungry fairgoers!

Darlene Curry



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards

Happy Spring District 4,



What a great 2022 Conference in March. There were inspirational speakers, great entertainment, and informative share shops. It was so good to see everyone.

We had a productive District meeting. I emailed to all District 4 county Presidents a copy of the minutes from the meeting. I hope you found them helpful. I was able to schedule a couple county annual meetings. If we have not scheduled your county's annual meeting, please contact me at 618-554-1790 or email me at dsrichards001@hotmail.com.

I emailed the March's IAHCE District Newsletter to the County Presidents. If you did not receive it, contact me and I'll resend it to you.

Be on the lookout in May for an invitation and tentative agenda to June 21st District 4 Mini Meeting.

Mark your calendars; August Workshops for District 4 & 5 will be Thursday, August 11th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham.

Look forward to seeing you on June 21st at Vandalia!

Donna Richards



Clinton

HCE in Clinton County has several projects in the works. We just had a program on Diabetes. It was presented by the local hospital. Our next activity is to sponsor the Easter Egg Hunt with the 4H, which will be open to the whole county. In May we are having a Butterfly Gardening program presented by a master gardener. Our biggest program of the year will be in October called Uncork the Holidays, a wine and food presentation. Our past state president Jane Chapman has agreed to be one of the presenters with her chocolate biscuits program.



Two HCE members attend the state convention in March. It was great to see the faces of other members from around the state. We loved the lunch program on Comforting Keepsakes.

Karen Voss

Effingham

It was Bunnies, Bouquets, Bonnets, and Bows at the latest Effingham HCE event—a Spring Fling. Twenty-nine ladies met to have a great time reconnecting with one another, showing off their Spring Bonnets and getting ideas on how to refresh old, tired wreaths. Deb Shultz, former Burkland Florist designer, showed how to revive old wreaths and gave pointers on updating them. Patti Logan, University of Illinois Extension, Program Coordinator, 4-H and Youth Development was on hand to demonstrate how to make bows. Games, recipe booklets, and refreshments all added to a delightful afternoon and made for a good way to inspire and attract members.



As you can see from the program above, Effingham County HCE is getting back to normal. Several events had to be cancelled during the past few months, but these programs and others are now back on the schedule along with others in the planning state. The Butter Braid fundraiser added dollars to the treasury for program support.

After missing last year's IAHCE Annual Conference, getting together last month did, in fact, INSPIRE us to get back the HCE spirit!

Pat Hildebrand



Fayette

Est. 1948

In this Newsletter article there is so much we must catch up on. So let's start with all the holidays; we hope everyone made a lot of family memories this Christmas and New Year's.

Some of our favorite parts of January are catching up with our HCE friends and hearing about their holidays. Then it's time for Family/Community Issues Director, Donna Blair, to get started on the County CVH Forms.

The least favorite activity is tax preparation. We can't forget to get valentines ready for shut ins and local military.

February is when we finish our projects for the IAHCE Conference. Why do we always wait to get everything done until the deadline? Or is it just us? Please tell us it isn't.

Reports from Family Community Issues Director Donna Blair:

Conference was so much fun. I always enjoy learning the accomplishments of the other units. That's where we get the best ideas. I haven't forgotten the silent auction. I'm always amazed at the things I win. Not that I'm trying to make anyone jealous. You would be though if you saw all the treasures I get. What fun sessions there are in the hall. Remember girls, what is said in the conference halls stays there.

April is our Get Acquainted meeting. It is always a lot of fun. Good food, good friends, and our Make it, Bake it, Sew it & Grow it auction with a member as our auctioneer. Sometimes the bidding gets fierce and some ladies will pay a high dollar for that one item they want. This year will be different from other years; our auctioneer Elizabeth Kasten went to be with our Lord and Savior earlier this year. She was the best for she could get us all to bid, make us all laugh and truly forget just how high those bids were getting. She was a great person, loved by all. This year we have decided to make this Get Acquainted Day in Memory of Elizabeth. We will have her picture there on the table with all the auction items. This year we are having a Soup, Salad, and Sandwich potluck meal.

In March 2020 Fayette County had a Bee program planned as a free community event, giving people a chance to learn about the care of bees and how to safely harvest the honey. The program had to be postponed, of course. It has been rescheduled for April 21, 2022. It will be interesting to hear from a local professional beekeeper. Big T's Honey will be coming to talk and bringing all his different types of honey products for us to sample and buy. Our members are asked to make refreshments that are made with honey or things that can be eaten with honey.

Fayette County HCE is planning for the June Annual Meeting. We have some changes that will be voted on and as we do every year, we will be presenting our Home Maker of the Year award. In May of 2023, FCAHCE will be turning 75 years old. The county is starting on planning a big event for our special anniversary. Stay tuned for more information.

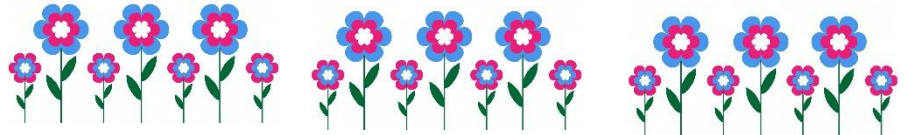


This year FCAHCE President Ashley Davis nominated Family and Community Issues Director, Donna Blair, for IAHCE Member of the Year. Donna Blair was presented a beautiful cutting board with engravings on it by the IAHCE President Angela Hicks. Ashley had to pull in the help from FCAHCE 1st Vice/2nd Vice President Debbie Segrest to get all the information together about Donna. Ashley nominated Donna for this award simply because during one the hardest times of everyone's life, she found it in her heart to keep making our Senior shut-ins smile. Donna mailed countless amounts of greeting cards to the Senior shut-ins, she wrote letters and she made phone calls. So, everyone knows Donna struggled through this time of Covid herself. She was depressed, lonely and missed what her life was before covid. She was always at the hospital and nursing homes. She was always on the go. One thing she always looked forward to is taking items to the ones in need. Donna volunteers at numerous places in Fayette County, like the FC Museum and National Road Interpretive Center. Another thing about Donna is she finds the time to drive to other counties and join in on craft nights & programs. Fayette County has a GEM in Donna Blair and we as a county are blessed to have her as member.

You know the saying. April showers bring May flowers? Well we had flowers to decorate for our June annual meeting. It's great to get back to doing the things we all love to do and spending time with family and friends. Here's hoping everyone has a great day and May God bless you all! Hugs & Prayers!

Donna Blair & Ashley Davis

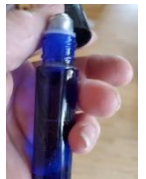
Macoupin



Greetings! Hopefully Spring has sprung and drier, warmer weather is with us. Macoupin County is starting to get in full swing of things since the decline in Covid cases. Many of the units are meeting in person, although many continue to meet outside their homes in church halls and restaurants for safety reasons. We have been able to hold our lesson training at the extension office as well as cultural arts activities.

Plans are underway for our Annual Meeting which we moved last month to Thursday, June 23rd at 10 a.m. It will be held at the Cross Church in Carlinville which is a bigger venue. We are planning to hold a huge silent auction to help build our treasury which has suffered the past few years. Also, finally we will be able to enjoy the presentation of the IAHCE's 2020 Great American Farm Family. The Griffel Family of Gillespie has been scheduled multiple times but we had to cancel banquets because of COVID. We are looking forward to a fun-filled and entertaining day.

Vickie Laughlin held the first Cultural Arts Day of the year at the Extension Office in January. The ladies had a great time making sugar scrubs and rollerballs with oils for different ailments. They used essential oils, sugar, and carrier oil to make a sugar scrub for feet, hands, elbows, knees, etc. The Rollerballs were made from essential oils and a carrier oil. These will help aid in sleep, anxiety, restless leg, and leg cramp problems.



The board was excited to welcome two new members to the board. Barb Richards will be our new Family and Community Issues Chair, and Jerri Bayse will be our new 2nd Vice President. At the same time, we are sad to see Cynthia Rhodus and Cindy Tipps leave the board. We were very blessed to have these two ladies serve on the board. They have promised to come back and help when needed.

Macoupin County currently has 104 members. Congratulations to the Staunton Unit for gaining a new member. We are saying good-bye to the Stitch and Stir Unit in Carlinville. These ladies have been a big part of HCE for many, many years. Several of them have served on the board in the past.

We would like to congratulate two staff members from our U of I Extension office for their recognition at the U of I's Annual Meeting. Connie Niemann, Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy program coordinator, was awarded a 20-year Service Award. Also, Lisa Peterson, our Nutrition and Wellness Educator for Christian, Jersey, Macoupin and Montgomery Counties, received the Program Area Team Excellence Award for her Fill Your Pantry food preservation series. Congratulations ladies.

Happy Spring to all!

Carol Rimar



Madison

Madison County started this year off to a great start with our first annual craft camp. We had nine participants and each made roughly 12 items including a barn quilt, a winter wreath, a Valentine's Day sign, a spring door hanger, a snowman painting, hot cocoa bombs, various beauty products, a porch sitter, and a recycled calendar craft. Preparations are already underway for next year.



At the end of March, our county held our annual Children's Make and Take It event. We tried something new this year with a bake sale and basket auction. We raised about \$250 for the combination. Children made up to ten crafts for free including bottle bird feeders, personalized cinch bags, and lollipop bunnies.

Our Annual Meeting will be taking place on May 2nd at LeClaire Christian Church in Edwardsville. It will include a silent auction and small program about the Chicago Fire. Our tea will follow on May 7th at the Crystal Gardens in Edwardsville. This event was held at the Crystal Garden's last year and our guests and members thoroughly enjoyed it. We close out spring with our county trip to Hannibal, Missouri on May 19th.

For the first time, we will be doing a bridal event, which will be held on June the 11th at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights. Admission is \$10 and will include a walk-through of wedding traditions as well as a display of wedding dresses through the eras.

On August 27th, we will have our first Fall Craft Workshop. Participants will make 8 crafts and receive lunch for just \$60. Crafts include an embroidery hoop pumpkin, Halloween block set, yarn pumpkins, a miniature fall barn quilt, a recycled book pumpkin, a fall monogrammed wall hanging, a wood slab pumpkin, and a three trayed pumpkin.

Our fall will include our International Night on October 10th, an Italy themed craft and cooking night, and some other activities throughout HCE week. Our county also continues to host an array of paint nights throughout the year. We started these in October and have had around 13 new members because of them. Most of these new members are youth between the age of 9-13 and most have joined along with their mothers! It's a great feeling knowing we are not only appealing to younger members but are prepping youth and children for the future of our organization!

Marion

In October, Marion County HCE Members provided a \$25 gift card to be presented at the Marion County 4-H Achievement Night to the winner of the Marion County HCE Award. To qualify members must participate in projects that are eligible. When Marion County 4-H Record Books are judged, the highest score in the rubric used for County and State Awards determines the winner. Members were encouraged to "shop" in the HCE

closet where books are stored for our Annual Book Sale and make a donation to benefit the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund. Because book sales were not held due to COVID in both 2020 and 2021, many books have been accumulating.

In January, Marion County HCE Projects for the 2022 year were announced to Members via the County Newsletter. They include collecting cancelled stamps for a Mission Project, collecting card fronts for a woman in Salem who uses them to make new cards and collecting food items for soldiers in Afghanistan. Donations for shipping costs to Afghanistan will be made as well as diapers, other new items and a monetary donation to the Salem Pregnancy Care Center, and the IAHCE Friendship Project Fund and Feeding Illinois. Lap robes and walker caddies will be made for local nursing homes and baby bibs, burp pads, and baby quilts will be made and given to the Centralia Pregnancy Care Clinic along with a monetary donation. Continuing projects include teaching young girls to sew items like dresses for themselves, providing an award for the Outstanding Home Economics 4-H Member, and holding a book "sale" by donation only with proceeds to benefit the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund and Scholarships to be awarded from that fund.

At the January Marion County HCE Board Meeting a Nominating Committee was appointed to select Officer Candidates for the 2022/2023 Year. Carrol Murray, Pay Young, and Paula Barksdale will seek those interested in the Second Vice President position currently held by Ruth Jones. Co-Presidents and the Treasurer have agreed to remain. A schedule allowing for replacement of Marion County HCE Board Officers every other year means that 1st Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will complete terms next year.

In February, Marion County HCE Members viewed a University of Illinois Extension Webinar entitled "Cultivating Your Own Blue Zone". They learned what distinguishes Blue Zones of the world and common lifestyles that contribute to health and longevity as well as how to create a plan for a lifestyle of their own making that is more in rhythm with community and nature.

In March, long-time Marion County HCE Member Karil Garrett presented the Lesson "Hats with Humor". Her presentation of several hats included a hat and complete outfit worn by her in a picture taken when she was a toddler, a hat made by her and worn at her wedding, and a hat originally worn at the Kentucky Derby that was passed on to her. She stated, "I took it apart, cut the peacock feathers and florals down, and put it back together making it about one third of its original size!" She also shared some marvelous stories as well as practical advice for reshaping and storing hats. At the March Board Meeting, Co-President Phyllis Henson-Phillips gave a summary of the workshops and events she attended at the IAHCE Annual Conference held earlier in the month. An Audit Committee was appointed to meet with Treasurer, Connie Williams, just prior to the April Lesson. They include Carrol Murray, Pat Young, and Phyllis Henson-Phillips.

On Thursday, April 21, at 2:00 pm at the Marion County Extension Office located at 1404 East Main Street in Salem, Marion County HCE Members, guests, and the public are invited to attend a University of Illinois Extension Webinar entitled Mindfulness and Money. We will discuss the relationship between mindfulness and money behaviors. We will also explore practical strategies that can help build positive money habits that have long-term benefits for your health and wellness.

Connie Williams

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms

It was wonderful to return to our State Conference! The smiles, laughter, and high spirits were inspirational for me. It's hard to pick my favorite moment: singing along and dancing to the band, Dr. Naam's inspirational words, or Sarah Steele's heart-tugging story. I know that Eleanor Gregory and the Board will put together another great program for next year, and I hope that you will attend. I would love to see more folks from District 5 go to conference next year. It's a shame that we are all relatively close to Effingham, but our District's attendance was the lowest. I will be challenging you in August to make a commitment to attend Conference 2023.



Thank you so much for the invitations to your annual meetings! I was in Perry County recently, and I will have been in Johnson, Hamilton, White, and Williamson counties by the time you read this. Janel Kassing, former District 7 Director and current state International Director, will fill in for me in Union County. I love traveling to the District 5 counties, and in my 3rd year as a district director, I will aspire to visit every county this time!

For those of you who attended my decluttering share shop at conference, I did not make the progress I wanted to that first week back after conference. However, in my defense, my grandson was born that week, so I had to do some Grandma Duty. I'm not giving up on the decluttering, though. I have definite plans for April. More to come later.



Archer Wallace Harms

I hope you will share this state newsletter with others in your county and unit, and then if they like reading it, urge them to subscribe themselves. Our editor Emily works very hard to put together an interesting and informational newsletter that every member from Jo Daviess and Lake counties down to Pulaski-Alexander and Massac counties can enjoy.

I hope you will all aspire to inspire people to join and participate in your HCE activities this year!

Carol



Hamilton

Our monthly Make It and Take It classes have continued to be successful. In January we made faux metal hearts, in February we made rice bags, and in March we learned how to arrange a charcuterie board. In January we partnered with our county 4-H members for a fun Cabin Fever Day. Eight adults and 20 youth participated in making several craft items and Rice Krispie treats. We then enjoyed a lunch of pizza with the treats for dessert.



Our hearts were heavy in the month of February as we mourned the loss of three of our elder members – Tillie Miller on January 26, Pauline Kennedy on February 14, and Marie Sadler on February 15. Marie was our last surviving charter member who had been an active member the entire time. All three were wonderful ladies who will be truly missed.

Several events are planned for the coming months. In April we will provide assistance at the annual Community Safety Day and will hold our Annual Day. Several more Make It and Take It classes will also be held. Some members will also serve as judges at the 4-H General Projects show in June.



We are very much looking forward to Spring and Summer activities!

Kathy Oglesby



Jackson

Jackson County Home and Community Education Association just turned 75 years last year and we want to continue the celebration. We are hoping 2022 will be the year we can all return and meet for in-person lessons. We are looking at new lessons. In-person lessons are still pretty much on hold, but the pick-up lessons are at the Extension Office for our units to enjoy. We also endeavor to have a monthly lesson in our newsletter.

We have so many places and lessons we want to get busy with. We aspire to find new members to share our organization with and are planning events in the Fall to introduce our organization to others in the community. We place photos of past events on our Facebook Page, and it gets attention from people asking to be a member of the page. They see a sister, favorite aunt or a friend and want to see even more news and photos. We will be inviting them to lessons and hope they decide they can be a part of our organization too!

Our next annual meeting is being planned later this year. Our new theme *Aspire to Inspire* will be a challenge to decorate and motivate our members at the annual meeting.

This past December our County HCE Board got together and had a Christmas meeting at our favorite restaurant. We dressed up and shared stories about our personal Christmas memories as children. Most of the units got together and celebrated with a party sending pictures for the Facebook Page as well.

With the cold weather we are looking to the Spring and then hoping summer will be a whole new season so we can attend many things. The NVON Conference in July will be a must event for us in this area to attend.

Jean Conrod



Jefferson

We continue to stay busy in Jefferson County. In December we donated stocking caps to the Marion Veterans Home and a local school. Our Christmas monetary donations were given to Epworth Food Pantry and Family Life Church for their homeless shelter.

Our 2021 Friend of HCE Award was given to Kingdom Seed Ministries in Mt. Vernon. We were not allowed inside the Extension Building due to Covid; we had to find a new location for holding our meetings. Kingdom Seed Ministries provided a meeting location and a yummy lunch when our meeting was over.

In January we donated a pizza meal to Lifeboat Alliance which is also a facility for the homeless. Our board has voted to provide a meal to Lifeboat Alliance quarterly. In February we celebrated Valentine's Day by collecting boxed Valentines which were donated to a local school and mailing Valentines to seniors and shut-ins. Kim Tucker and Tammy Rednour, of The Amy Center in Mt. Vernon, provided a very interesting lesson on the sexually and physically abused children they serve. They have served over 6000 children in seven counties since they opened in 1990. We continue to donate quilts to The Amy Center each month for these children. We worked at the Ag in the Classroom breakfast, sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau. When we could no longer hold our meetings at the Extension Building, the Farm Bureau allowed us to use their conference room for our meetings and lessons. We were glad to help them with this worthwhile event. Our March lesson was at a local funeral home where they discussed funeral planning. Seven of our board members attended the Annual Conference. We were so honored to be awarded Second Place in the County of the Year category for membership over 75. We were also honored that The Jackson Family was chosen as this year's Great American Family. Sarah Mae Waite and Mary Ann Dagg, sisters and HCE members, were presented with the award and provided a very interesting program on the achievements of their family.

We continue to deliver Meals on Wheels. Since we began this project last May we have delivered approximately 350 meals.

JCHCE wishes everyone a happy and healthy spring and a blessed Easter Holiday.

Barb Shurtz and Donna Vancil

Family of the year -The Jackson Family is this year's winner of the Great American Family Award. Pictured is Eleanor Gregory, IAHCE Family and Community Issues Director, Sarah Mae Waite, MaryAnn Dagg and her daughter. Congratulations to the Jackson Family!!!



Jefferson County Board attending 2022 Conference.



Massac

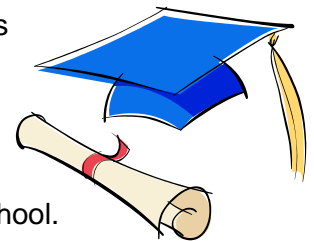
Massac County HCE members came through again this year! Judy Ferguson delivered 216 Valentines to residents at Southgate, Southgate Senior Living, Misty Meadows and Metropolis Nursing and Rehabilitation. All were extremely grateful that we thought of their residents! Massac County HCE Homemakers is a great way to be involved in your community by sharing kindness, compassion and His love.



Massac County HCE members were recognized at the 98th IAHCE Conference, "Aspire to Inspire" held March 15-17 in Effingham, IL. Judy Ferguson is holding the Grand Award for Family and Community Issues, Judy Parr was honored with the District 5 Member of the Year award, and Norma is holding the 3rd place County of the Year award (for counties with membership of 75 or fewer). Massac County HCE also received education awards in International and Public Relations. During the two-day conference, members attended interesting classes, enjoyed the entertainment of a band and dancing, and were inspired by two guest speakers and the Family of the Year recipient.

HCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships will once again be offered to Massac County seniors. These scholarships are funded by Massac County Extension Facilities, Inc. and Massac County Home and Community Education Association. According to the scholarship guidelines, "Preference will be given to students who are interested in the areas of home, family, environment, and agricultural studies." Students interested in other majors are also encouraged to apply. Applications will be available in the school counselor's office or from the agriculture instructors at both Massac County High School and Joppa High School. The deadline for application submission is April 1.



Massac County HCE lost one of our long-time members in November 2021. Ellen Ruth Bremer was a 72-year member of the Volleville Unit. She presented many lessons through the years to her unit and in the county and served on the HCE Council in different offices through the years. Ellen Ruth also served as a 4-H leader, mentor, and member of the state Extension Council. HCE will miss her special humor and down to earth advice.

Norma Korte

Monroe

Although it was the tail-end of the pandemic and lots of activities were still cancelled, Monroe County HCE managed to pull off a great annual meeting in celebration of our 80th year. We switched our usual evening meeting for a Saturday, November 6th morning brunch, which was a success. In addition to awards and installations, a skit written and delivered by Sharon Scherer had each board member dressed in one of the past eight decades.



Rosie Yaekel presents Christmas appetizers.

Then in early December, just in time for Christmas, members Rosie Yaekel and Sue Oerter presented a lesson, "Mocktails and Appetizers." Forty-two members and guests attended this very popular program.

In early winter we had another well-attended lesson, "Air Fryers" given by Extension advisors Kris Juelfs, Emily Reece and Kelly Brandt. We were forced to cut off reservations after 50 people signed up for this very informative lesson. We reached a lot of non-members by announcing this lesson on Facebook and Next Door.

Community outreach Chair Kathi Emery organized two giving events for our local Senior Living Center. HCE members bought or made prizes for the Home's Christmas Bingo and

Valentine's Bingo Parties. Pre-pandemic, HCE gave bi-monthly Birthday parties at the home. We were forced to stop this because of pandemic restrictions so the nursing home and its residents were especially grateful for these prizes. Kathi also sponsored food drives for kids during the Christmas and Spring holidays in the House of Neighborly Service backpack program.



Perry

In May and June we collected a good amount of luggage for the "Luggage of Love" campaign. In July, members generously donated items for our annual Yard Sale held in conjunction with the Pinckneyville Thresherman's Show. Over \$1500 was made to help fund the two college scholarships we award every year. We recently held our Craft Day at the Pinckneyville Community Center with a dozen or so ideas for all attendees to create. Pictured are some members crafting the lighted fabric garland, clothespin wreaths, fabric envelopes, and bread in a bag. Some made holiday bows, a crayon/embroidery item and painted candle jars too. Donations were brought in for the local Humane Society. Perry County HCE will have a promotional booth at Pinckneyville's Mardi Gras Market Saturday, October 30th. On November 9th we will have our Holiday Ideas Day. The theme will be "Truckin' Through the Holidays" and there will be presentations regarding Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Back in February and March, Perry County members were busy hand quilting a quilt that will be raffled off at the Holiday Ideas Day. Each unit will donate a gift basket to raffle and raise funds for the scholarships. Attendees are encouraged to bring items for the local food pantries.



Pulaski-Alexander

Pulaski-Alexander meetings have been limited as illness canceled several scheduled meetings. The Pulaski unit did meet in March at the home of Debbie Brown. Seven members were present.

Our unit continues to collect soda tabs and canceled postage stamps. Scholarship applications have been distributed to three high schools. In lieu of a fundraiser for scholarships, four people donated money to this fund. The country of study this year is Italy. Our theme for the year is *Aspire to Inspire*.

Shawnee Unit

The first meeting of the year was in March. Illness among the membership was the reason for cancellations.

Projects to help Century School were discussed. The unit will assist the Grand Chain Library with an Easter egg hunt on April 16th.

It is hoped that our membership can once again get together in our usual manner with meetings.

Items of Interest:

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1. Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door service offers.
2. Never provide any person identifiable information.
3. Never wire money to unknown or unverified persons.
4. Do not open any emails or click on attachments you do not recognize.
5. Perpetrators create a sense of urgency to produce fear and a need for fast action.



BEWARE OF SCAMS

1. Grandparent Scam: A criminal may pose as a relative, claiming they are in immediate need.
2. Home Repair Scam: Criminals appear in person and charge homeowners in advance for services they never provide.
3. Family/Caregiver Scam: Perpetrators are relatives or known acquaintances of the elderly person and take advantage of them, sometimes by stealing their money.
4. TV/Radio Scam: Criminals use advertisement such as reverse mortgages or credit repairs to target their victims.
5. Sweepstakes Scam: Criminals claim to work for an organization to gain the victim's trust and will then ask for a fee to collect their winnings.

Martha McMunn

White

Another great, exciting, entertaining, and knowledgeable IAHCE Convention was held. Getting together again to renew old acquaintances and meet new members was wonderful! We want to thank our State Officers for a well planned and fun time we had this year. We had six board members from White County attend and we got to bring back some good information for future lessons. White County was excited to bring home The Grand Award in Public Relations and 3 other awards in Cultural Enrichment this year. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

We are now busy making plans for the new year and our Annual Day Activities. I have used the next part of this article before, but I think it is worthy of another issue.

Our H.C.E. Women are a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day. She smiles even when she is sad. She laughs and cries too, but she is stronger than anyone realizes and she never gives up. She would do anything to protect her family and works to make her community a place to work together for a community we can be proud of. We have learned to overcome challenges these last years. It has been awesome seeing how many of our H.C.E. Members have made a big difference to our neighbors, friends and our community. Thank you for all the hard work and your prayers. It makes all of us wanting to be a better person.

Thank You White County Public Relations



PHOTOS FROM THE 2022 CONFERENCE

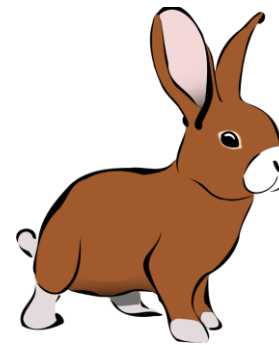




IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

NVON (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK)

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



DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

August 9th, 2022, United Methodist Church, Sycamore - District 1 and 2

August 10th, 2022, Southern View Chapel, Springfield - District 3

August 11th, 2022, St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham - District 4 and 5

CWC USA/ACWW USA AREA MEETING

September 20th-22nd, 2022, North Little Rock Riverfront Wyndham, North Little Rock, Arkansas

IAHCE WEEK

October 10th-14th

IAHCE AWARD WINNERS

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Special Activity: Lake & Perry Counties

Grand Award—Madison County

Textiles: McLean & Perry Counties

Heritage Skills: McLean County

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

District 2

Family Living/Safety: Kankakee County

Citizenship/Environment: Kane County

Special Activity: McLean County

District 3

Special Activity: Macon County

District 4

Family Living/Safety: Marion County

Special Activities: Madison County

PUBLIC RELATIONS

HCE Week: Kane and Edgar Counties

Public Relations: Perry—Massac—McLean Counties

GRAND AWARD: White County

INTERNATIONAL

GRAND AWARD—Country of Study: McLean County

GRAND AWARD—Special Event: Kane County

COUNTY OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

75 Members or Less- Edgar County

Over 75 Members- McLean County



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS

2021 County with Highest Total Hours Reported per District

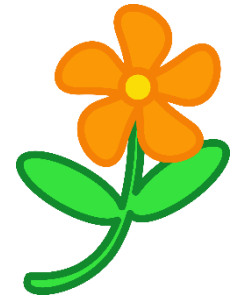
District 1: JoDaviess

District 2: McLean—leader with 24,858 hours

District 3: Sangamon

District 4: Macoupin

District 5: Jefferson



2021 County with the Highest Members Reporting Per District

District 1: JoDaviess

District 2: McLean—leader with 155

District 3: Champaign

District 4: Macoupin

District 5: Jefferson

2021 County with the Highest Percentage of Members Reporting

District 1: JoDaviess

District 2: Grundy and Kankakee and McLean ALL with 100 %

District 3: Morgan

District 4: Macoupin

District 5: Jefferson

2021 County with the Highest HCE Hours Reported per District

District 1: JoDaviess

District 2: McLean—leader with 6,712

District 3: Champaign

District 4: Fayette

District 5: Jefferson

2021 Member with the Highest HCE Hours per District

District 1: Rock Island, Nancy Edlund

District 2: Kane, Marie Curless

District 3: Sangamon, Betty Paul—Leader with 2000

District 4: Madison, Joyce Cornwell

District 5: Jackson, Jean Conrod

CVH GRAND AWARD—COUNTY WITH HIGHEST TOTAL HCE HOURS

District 2—McLean County—10,658 HCE hours



Five Essential Spring Gardening Tasks

Spring is the most active time to be in the garden. Using all the pent-up energy we've accrued over winter, let's head outdoors to clean out and prepare our garden beds, repair hardscaping, do a little pruning and moving, and start the growing season off right. Here are ten things you can do to launch the spring season successfully.

1. Time for a spring inspection. On one of the first warm days of spring, put on your inspector's hat and head out to the garden with a notepad. It's time to see what happened in the garden while you were indoors all winter. Take note of:

- Cold, ice or snow damage on plants
- Beds that will need to be cleaned out
- Hardscaping elements—walls, fences, benches, sheds, trellises—that have shifted, bowed or rotted
- Evidence of new animal burrows from skunks, chipmunks, moles and voles, groundhogs or rabbits. Also, note any deer or rodent damage on woody plants.

2. Address hardscaping issues first. In early spring before the ground is ready to be worked, focus your energy on hardscaping. This is the time to repair damaged retaining walls, level out your stepping stones, clean out your gutters, and fix fences, benches, decks, sheds, trellises, window boxes and raised beds. These tasks are easier to accomplish while your plants are still resting safely dormant. Early spring is also a good time to plan for and build new raised gardens, widen existing ones, and tidy up your beds' edging. When temperatures allow, add a fresh coat of paint, stain or sealant to any hardscaping elements made of wood.

3. Do a thorough spring cleanup. Ideally just before your spring bulbs start to pop up, clean the plant debris out of your garden beds. This includes fallen branches, matted down leaves, last year's perennial foliage, ornamental grasses and perennial hibiscus, and any annuals you didn't remove last fall. Maintaining good hygiene in your garden beds will help to keep pests and diseases at bay. Now is also a good time to clean out debris from your pond or water feature. While you're at it, scrub and sterilize your bird bath and containers before setting them back out into the garden. A 1 part bleach/5 parts water solution should take care of any lingering diseases or insect eggs in your containers.

4. Test your garden soil. Experts recommend testing your garden soil every 3-5 years to see what nutrients or organic materials it needs and which it has too much of. You might learn, for example, that your soil is very high in phosphorous, so you would avoid adding fertilizers that contain a lot of it. Or you might find out your soil is naturally alkaline, and need to add aluminum sulfate around your evergreens and acid-loving shrubs like hydrangeas. Detailed instructions on how to collect and submit your soil sample is available on your state's Extension Service website.

5. Feed your soil. Once you know what your garden soil needs based on your test results, talk with someone at your local garden center about which specific products to use, always following package instructions for best results. A good general practice is to topdress the soil with an inch or two of compost, humus and/or manure in early spring just before or as your bulbs are starting to emerge. That's also a good time to sprinkle an organic slow release plant food like Espoma's Plant-tone or Rose-tone around your perennials and shrubs. Earthworms and other garden creatures will do the job of working these organic materials down into the soil for you.



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