

# *The IAHCCE Chronicle*



## *Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together for 99 Years*

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# NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS



## Angela Hicks - IAHCE President

Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

**“A mind that is stretched by a *new experience* can never go back to its old dimensions. – Oliver Wendell Holmes**

The new experience for me was flying to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and attending the ACWW Triennial Conference! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and the experience is an unforgettable one! I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to represent Illinois as IAHCE President and as a voting dele-



gate. It would be my pleasure to visit your county to share my journey with you. This trip was a learning experience filled with adventure and fun! We caught up with old acquaintances and made new friends from all over the world. I have a few “email pals” as well! We had a taste of Malay, Chinese, and Indian culture and food. We were treated as honored guests at the Malaysian Palace. Not one moment was without an enjoyable learning experience. I left with a better understanding of ACWW and the role it plays throughout the world. Sometimes I think back to my journey and think did I

dream it or did it really happen! Well it happened because I have the pictures and witnesses to prove it! The only adjustment was the “jet lag” and feeling almost powerless to get back to normal sleeping and waking times! (Sara Kenny in photo to left and Irene Chinje in photo to right.)



Back home again and it was time for the IAHCE June Board meeting! The IAHCE Board members shared the progress being made for the March 2024 conference and let me just say this, “don’t miss out on this experience, it is going to be a conference like none other!” Exciting times are ahead with the August District Workshops just around the corner and the 100<sup>th</sup> IAHCE Conference fast approaching! All members are welcome to attend the August Workshops where you learn the new country of study, the theme of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, and much more!



Continue to aspire to inspire each other and those around you! This is my favorite “Pearl of Wisdom”:

**“Your smile is your logo,  
You personality is your business card,  
And the way you make others feel is your trademark.”**

Angela Hicks

847-922-2758 (cell)

[angelahickshce@gmail.com](mailto:angelahickshce@gmail.com)





*Note from the IAHCE Webmaster, Angela Hicks:*

*I would like to thank Clarence and Sharon Middleton for their continued support and counsel as I learn every phase of the website. I am approaching my first year anniversary and every time I work on the website, I learn something new! Thank you for your patience!*

*As I become more comfortable with the website I notice little things that need attention, your attention, County Officers! The website is only as good as the information given to update it. Please take a look at the "Related Sites" page. This is where IAHCE Counties can list their officers, contact information, link to your county website, etc. It is your responsibility to provide the Webmaster with current information. Please send your updates by email to:*

**Angela Hicks, Webmaster**  
**angelahickshce@gmail.com**

*It would be helpful to write in the subject line of your email, "county website updates". Please identify County Name, District number, contact person's name and phone number in the email.*

*If you would like your county information on the website, a template will be available at the August Workshops. The template will help you know what information to include on your county page.*

*Thank you so much,*

Be kind to everyone even the ones that are mean to you. You don't know what is happening in there lives. Ask God to help and pray for them!

-Virginia Lewis

I want a man who looks at me the way I look at chocolate.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## 1st VICE PRESIDENT – Kathy Peterson

Hope you are all enjoying your summer. I am learning to enjoy the moment with my parents and never be in a hurry. Life is short, time is fast, no re-play. No rewind. So enjoy every minute as it comes! This is how I live right now as I realize my parent's time is in God's hands. I am going to ask again for you to check for hidden gems in closets, basements, and shelves concerning the last 100 years of IAHCE. Contact me by email or phone. Please send me mini or major lesson ideas. They are always welcome. I am looking forward to seeing you all and hearing your ideas.

Take care of yourselves!



## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

What a wild spring Illinois has had! Since January 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois has had floods, fires, tornadoes, hailstorms and a major windstorm. I hope you have all been safe and practiced what we learned about disaster preparedness last August. As I write this I'm still in my cool house (after two days without power) thinking about how much I take all our modern conveniences for granted.

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer full of fun, friends, and family. By the time you read this our August workshops will have come and gone, and we'll all be thinking about fall. Fall is a great time to get your HCE county geared up and ready for new adventures. What event, lesson for living, or fun outing are you planning for the upcoming months? Encourage your members to invite friends and family to your events.

I hope you are all planning to attend the IAHCE 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Conference, March 12-14, 2024, in Effingham. This is a conference you want to attend! This will be a conference to remember. I hope to see you all there in March!

Our IAHCE District Directors remain busy throughout the year attending annual meetings and events in their district. Districts 3, 4 and 5 have been having mini-district workshops in June and October/November. Districts 1 and 2 are working on a mini-district workshop to be held sometime this fall. Watch for details about the meeting in your district. These meetings are a wonderful way to get connected to the counties in your district, network with each other, and just enjoy being together. These events are FREE and are open to all members! These mini workshops are a wonderful way to introduce new or newer members to the next level of IAHCE. I was fortunate to be able to attend the first mini-district workshop for District 3 in June. Everyone came away glad that they had come, especially after sampling the cakes Macon County provided! Your district director will get information to you soon on the next mini workshop in your district.

It looks like a busy fall! The applications for the IAHCE Member of the Year are due to me by October 1, 2023. Make sure your county nominates a deserving member of your HCE family. There will be one winner from each district and winners will be honored at the 100<sup>th</sup> IAHCE Annual Conference. Applications were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President packets at August workshops. Copies of the form are also available at IAHCE.org.

Have a wonderful fall!



Trust and obey and stay that way.  
-Betty Wever

# SECRETARY- Cathy Eathington

Hot and dry describes most of Illinois at the end of June. Once again, we held our June board meeting at the Three Pines B&B in Petersburg. The weather was wonderful and we were able to spend some time outside in the garden areas.

In 2023 I became a great grandmother to two little girls. Miss Evelyn was born in April and Miss Daphne arrived on Christmas Day. I will welcome my third great grandchild in January.

Once again, a big THANK YOU for your great effort in getting me your updated county officer list.

District Workshops are coming up in August. District 4&5 on August 8, 2023 at Mt Vernon (new location), District 3 on August 9, 2023 in Springfield and District 1&2 on August 10, 2023 at Mt Carroll (new location). You may attend the District that is closest to you. Your District Director has all the details.

IAHCE 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is March 14-16 at Effingham. Co-chairs Melissa Chitwood and Carol Harms are planning a very special conference. Please make plans to attend and celebrate 100 years of IAHCE.

Two officers need to be elected at our conference. President (who must have been on the board before) and International Chairman. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the District Workshops.



# TREASURER- Melissa Chitwood

This year's theme is "Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together IAHCE 99 Years". What a great theme for 2023! It has been so much fun wearing pearls and sharing and hearing words of wisdom. Don't stop sharing your valuable words of wisdom!

In June when the state board met, plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference went into full speed ahead! I am excited to announce our theme as well as some information on the March 2024 Conference during our August Workshops! With every passing day of planning I am more excited to share what your board is working on.....but we won't be giving away all our secrets, some things you will hear in August, some you will read about in the December Chronicle and then see it all come together in March 2024!. I look forward to the members of IAHCE coming together as one to celebrate in Effingham! Information and registration will be in the upcoming December 2023 issue of the Chronicle. Until then, here is my personal invitation to you to attend the IAHCE 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Conference to be held March 12-14, 2024 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Illinois. SAVE THE DATE!!!



Also during the August Workshops I will be distributing within the Treasurer's packets the Friendship Projects Fund Transmittal Form (due/postmarked by November 20, 2023) as well as the State Dues Transmittal Form (due by January 5, 2024) I sincerely hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and that you were able to host many HCE events maintain and increase your membership as well as holding fundraising events. When thinking about your events, remember this **exemplum**: An old man said, "Erasers are made for those who make mistakes." A youth replied, "Erasers are made for those who are willing to correct their mistakes!" This saying is basically reiteration of "If at first you don't succeed try, try again!

If you have an event that didn't work as planned, look at why it didn't work? Get out your eraser and correct those mistakes and try, try again. If you thought it was a good idea then, it may still be a good idea, it just needs some tweaking. Was the weather a factor? Or perhaps there was already an event going on that affected attendance. Think it through. What if you selected another time, another day, another season? Could it be a success? Try, try again. There is no "I" in teamwork, but "u" are found within success! Grab that eraser and correct those mistakes! Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher

Summertime, summertime, sum – sum-summertime, summertime, summertime, sum – sum-summertime, summerti-i-i-ime! Are you singing with me? Oh, sweet, *busy* summertime! Are you busy with gardening and other outdoor projects? Maybe you are spending evenings at the ballpark cheering on children or grandchildren? Perhaps you are enjoying some R &R on summer vacation with family or friends? Are you busy working on your arts and crafts to enter in the Cultural Arts Show?



Our summers seem to be filled with special activities that keep us hopping. I hope you are including District Workshop as one of your “must do” activities in August. We always have fun and get good information to take back to our counties. Even though the Cultural Arts categories list has not changed, I plan to talk about it in my workshop. I will also go over filling out Education Award application forms, and I want to have a time of sharing ideas for Cultural Enrichment activities.

I know you are busy, but be sure to take time to sit in the shade and enjoy some ice tea or lemonade. It’s summertime!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

## Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory

“It’s beginning to look a lot like” .....SUMMER! Everywhere you go! Take a stroll in the summer’s heat, or parade on a sandy beach. Enjoy the smell of the backyard barbecue and watch a grandson’s little league game. No matter what you do, the fact remains...it’s summertime again. But the prettiest sight to see is the wreath that you hung on your own front door. (Mine was a nesting place for a family of robins.)



This family of robins reminded me of the importance of family! That brings us to the importance of the “Family and Community Issues” aspect of HCE! Now is the time to consider the programs/projects you have completed and the programs/projects you plan to do! At the District Meeting, we will discuss the forms and requirements for this part of the HCE program. (Go to the IAHCCE Website IAHCCE.org) Check out the Guidebook pp 62-66. Bring your questions and we will answer them.

The **Illinois Great American Family** (Guidebook pp 33-35) will be discussed also. Please bring your questions for this special award.

We are continuing to support the NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network) **BEE-CAUSE Pollinators Feed the World.**

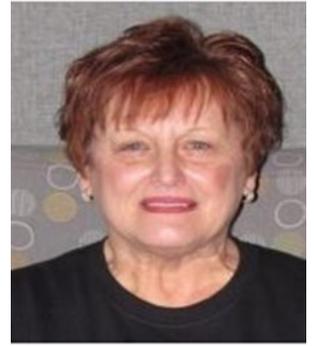
This year the Education Directors are planning to present lessons with a **Mental Health Focus.** Included in your packet will be a lesson, specifically on Alzheimer’s. See you soon. All the best and God bless.

My mother used to say; live each day as if it were the last.

-Kathy Staroba, Madison County

# International- Janel Kassing

Happy Summer Ladies! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the August workshops. We have an exciting program planned for you and an even more exciting March conference to celebrate our 100th! In 2019 when I attended the Triennial in Australia, the Queen of Malaysia invited us to the 2022 Triennial. The pandemic changed that to 2023. My trip to Malaysia is now a wonderful memory of seeing old friends, making new ones, and learning more about ACWW, which all of you are members.



We arrived around midnight on May 17 after 22 hours of flying to Denver, Tokyo, and Kuala Lumpur. A Malay group greeted us before a bus trip to the hotel. We checked into the conference the next morning and were gifted a beautiful bag filled with a hat, a piece of batik fabric, and various brochures. The conference began on Thursday morning with an opening ceremony at which the king, queen, and crown prince and 450 women were in attendance. Morning and afternoon tea were served each day. Breakfast was an amazing buffet, lunch was a buffet also with traditional Malay foods including rice, salad fixings, and dessert. Dinner was sometimes a buffet with rice or sometimes a "set" dinner again with rice. Accompanying dishes were varied with meats such as fish, pork, chicken, lamb, and vegetables (usually squash or green beans). I was so ready for a hamburger or fried chicken after a week of rice!

On Sunday we went on a day trip. Here was a choice of four places. I chose the Kraft Institute. There they put me in the basket weaving class. I had never made a basket before and I got to make two. I purchased a purse made by a student there. We were taken there on a double decker bus escorted by several policeman who literally stopped traffic for us to travel through Kuala Lumpur, the capital, giving us the opportunity to see the countryside. As soon as we arrived back at the hotel we began to get ready to go to the Gala Dinner at the Palace.

We were again escorted by six policeman for each of the six double decker buses. The Palace was about 45 minutes away. It was an amazing golden/yellow and white domed building surrounded by gates. At entry there were dates and nuts with a variety of drinks. We were then invited into the dining room. The opulence was evident everywhere- the china, chandeliers, the band ready to play... Soon the queen was escorted in and the dinner began with a fruit plate, a shrimp appetizer, then the rice accompanying dishes with tiramisu, chocolate, and fruit desert.

After three more days of conference meetings, we headed home again through Tokyo and Denver. The meetings were conducted by Magie de Koch, the World President. The Resolutions voted on will be presented to the UN by the ACWW office staff housed in London.

This was an amazing trip that I attended with Jane Chapman, Angela Hicks, and Alice Grooms. Cara Ausmus also attended the Triennial. You'll be hearing and seeing more about our trip at a later date.

Have a great summer and see you soon in Mt. Vernon, Springfield, or Mt. Carroll in August and/or Effingham in March.

Whoever is happy will make others happy too!

Written by Anne Frank

-Rebecca Gatewood

# Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales– Ashley Davis



Hello Everyone,

Wow!! What a beautiful site here in Central Illinois, we finally had RAIN! I hope now when I go to take Bear Dog Davis outside that the grass won't crunch like Rice Krispies. I hope you all are having a great summer so far and trying your best to save your gardens and stay cool.

Are you gearing up to come to August workshops? I know that the board was working hard at the June Board meetings and it's going to be full of information and FUN!!!

Again, I want to apologize for the huge mess up on the Certificate of Recognition that was handed out in March. I have only one excuse and it's my story and am sticking to it. My wiener dog Bear Dog Davis did it. And to let you know he earned volunteer hours for redoing all that he messed up. If you have not handed out your certificate to your members, please open the envelope and check to see if they are correct. If you need these corrected, please let me know and please try not to wait until the last minute or right before you are to hand them out. I can't promise I will get them to you on time.

I am working on something exciting and something that I have found interesting for the August District Workshops. So, hope to see you all there!!!!

## Sales Table Price Changes:

State Membership Lapel Pins \$4.00    25-year Lapel Pins \$4.00  
50-year Lapel Pins \$4.00                      Yearly Charms \$2.00  
Elevator Card (non-Magnet) 25/\$1.00              Elevator Card (magnet) 25/\$1.00  
Car Decals \$3.00



**Hot items for Pre-Sales**



**12"x18" inch Garden Flag with our state logo and the wording  
"Proud Member of Illinois Association for Home and Community Education".  
Cost: \$20.00.**

**20oz skinny stainless-steel Tumbler with the IAHCE State Logo and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on it.  
Cost: \$20.00**

**These items are to help fundraise for the 2024 IAHCE 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference  
Please mail your orders and money to the IAHCE CVH/Sales Director Ashley Davis 1787 N. 1750<sup>th</sup> St., St  
Elmo, IL 62458.**

**All orders will be delivered to the March 2024 Conference and need to be postmarked by January 5<sup>th</sup>,  
2024.**

# Public Relations- Emily McDowell

With the 2024 year fast approaching, we have decided to do a state wide project showcasing who we are as an organization to those that don't anything about us. Our hope is that through this project we will recruit new members and introduce people to IAHCCE. So what exactly is the project and what does it mean for each county? The project is a basically a scavenger hunt in brochure form! Each brochure will have a brief description about who we are and what we do. There will be a page to collect information for everyone who completes it and there will be five spaces to be "stamped" for participating in five HCE events.



Each county will be getting a handful of these brochures and a handful of stickers. This is a contest open to non-HCE members and should be distributed at local libraries or similar places. Each county will need to mark passports at any of their functions in which someone presents with the passport. What we need from each county is a list of some of your big 2024 events so we can provide a list to each participant so that they know what events will qualify for their stampings.

This is much easier to explain in person so I hope to address this at our District Workshops, but if for some reason you cannot attend, please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone. I will want to start compiling a list soon to allow enough time to get this rolling by January 2024, but won't need events until mid October at the latest.

This project will run all of 2024 and prizes will be awarded for participation. Participants will send their completed brochures/passports to me and I will then forward them to counties based on where the participant lives. It will be your job to follow up with these individuals and try to recruit them into your local units.

There will also be a website component so when you go onto our website you will be able to see what it all entails at a future date.

In other news, I hope you are working on those proclamations! HCE week will be here before you know it and so will our special 100th year! I hope to see you all at the party!

Lastly, I need to make you aware of a huge newsletter change. Effective immediately, newsletter subscriptions are now \$15.00 per year. All subscriptions will renew and/or expire December 31st of each year. What this means for those subscriptions that will be expiring between now and the new year is that you will be responsible for paying \$5 per issue to bring yourself up to the current new rate. For example; if your subscriptions expire in August, you would pay \$25 (\$5 for two issues and the \$15 for next year). We will also talk more about this at district workshops.

Enjoy your summer!

Put everything in the right order....

From Sunday School: God, others, self.

From honor society: Brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

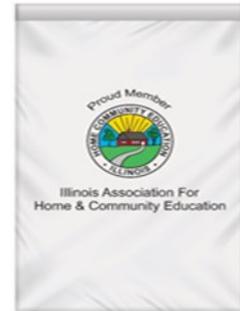
From Scouts: Be prepared for any old thing.

Written by: Lord Robert Baden Powell

-Bonnie Whiteside, Champaign County, Savoy Unit

# IAHCE 2024 SPECIAL 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ITEMS

20oz Skinny Stainless-Steel Double Wall Tumbler with Straw  
**IAHCE State Logo on one side and 100th Anniversary on the Other      Cost: \$20.00**



**12"x18" Garden Flag    One sided/No hardware      Cost \$20.00 each**

**Send order and money to CVH/Sales Director Ashley Davis  
 1787 N. 1750th St. St Elmo, IL 62458  
 Make Checks Payable to: IAHCE  
 These will be delivered at the 2024 Conference  
 NO shipping  
 Orders postmarked by January 5th, 2024**

**Member's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark your Choice:**

**Garden Flag:** \_\_\_\_\_ **QTY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **20oz Tumbler:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Qty:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you choose to order both, please mark both and qty of each.**

# DISTRICT 1 NEWS

## DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR – Becky Thomas



Happy Summer HCE friends! Plans are in process for the 100<sup>th</sup> year IAHCCE anniversary! It will be something that the whole state can talk about. I am still wearing my pearls and it may continue for me. Fair weeks are starting to come around and I know that most of you will have worked and volunteered your time and talents during the summer. Many of us have done the same routine for years and that works well, but we need to remember to let other people help and share their new ideas and activities. The district meetings are next on the list of things to do. District 1 is a different venue and I would like to thank all the people that helped with ideas and making the day work. At Rock Island Annual Meeting a speaker read a poem of bee lessons. I found some of my own that spoke to me. Bees live within their means and achieve extraordinary things by working together. Bees demonstrate that division of labor can be highly efficient. Bees make honey while the sun shines.

Take care!

Be kind to others.

–Karen Crull

*Jo-Daviess*

From the top of Illinois, summer greetings to all. We are hoping for some rain, enjoying garden produce, and celebrating our county.

Our units have been busy with projects and interesting programs. Eureka Unit had a program on the American flag, its origin and how to display the flag. The program was presented by American Legion member Jim Vaupel, husband of member Stephanie Vaupel.



The Meridian Unit from Warren made Loyalty Day baskets for all the employees of District #205 in Warren. Member Judy Hodgins made 76 baskets and the members filled them with a small flag, pencil and a paper explaining Loyalty Day, which is observed on May 1<sup>st</sup> as a day for the reaffirmation of Loyalty to the United States and the recognition of American Freedom.

All units participated in the fund-raising events for the county, the first one at Culver's Share Night in Galena (we serve the patrons and receive a portion of the profits), and another event at Sullivans Foods with the brat sales food stand. The Meridian Unit also worked at the food stand at Hartzell's in Warren. We did well and enjoyed seeing lots of folks who picked up their noon meal, so they did not have to cook!

Best to you all this summer and we look forward to our District meeting in August.



# Mercer

Education MCHCE held their Annual Meeting on May 11, 2023, at the Aledo Fire Protection District Community Room. A potluck dinner was held with 19 members and guests in attendance. President Cara Ausmus led the festivities with the Pledge of Allegiance, Aim for the Homemaker, and Grace. Several guests in attendance were recognized by Cara: Emma Hoke— officer from Rock Island Co, Becky Thomas-district director, Aleshia Kenney--program , her daughter, Riley; and Susie Kenney--aunt of Aleshia. A memorial service was given to honor 3 HCE members who passed on during 2022. Susan DeBlock, Pat Stancliff, and Mary Rickey were so honored. Officers were elected during the business meeting. Cara was elected president, Elene Waters was elected first vice-president, Judy West was elected secretary, Marcia Duncan was elected to public relations, and Donna Pinger was elected as CVH chairman and publisher of the newsletter. No one was nominated nor volunteered for treasurer.

Home and Community Education is all about life-long learning, but one of its greatest achievements is the devotion to volunteering efforts in the community. Helping those in need is a top priority! The state organization in conjunction with the University of Illinois feels so profoundly about volunteerism that they have studied these efforts and can equate the amount for hourly time spent working in the community. If we were paid for the hours we spend, It would be equivalent to \$29.50 per hour! As the CVH chairman, I had the pleasure of honoring members whose volunteer hours exceed the traditional amount allotted for HCE events. The accounting of these hours often approaches more than 10 hours per month. Not a lot compared to the possible choices each member has in volunteerism; keep in mind a member may work at the library, food pantry, church, school, museum, nursing home, even the park or a garden area and there's even more. Two hours per week is quite enough considering the responsibilities each one has in her daily life.

The following women received a certificate for volunteer hours exceeding 100 hours per year. As they volunteer; hours “multiply”, many members accumulated even more than 100 hours per year.. • Julie Losey 94 • Kathy Sponsler 99 • Sharon Mayhew 108 • Linda Whitney 179 • Bev Gray 270, • Elene Waters 282 • Cathy Bizarri 318 • Mary Baker 536 • Donna Pinger 719 • Cara Ausmus 897 • Lois Retherford 1682! Additionally, as these hours were charted, the yearly totals were combined starting with 2017, Our 100th Anniversary for MCHCE. Keep in mind that the COVID Pandemic hit us during this time frame and brought volunteerism to a halt!! But these same ladies continued to help in the community even through adversity. The accumulating hours of volunteerism is an astounding accomplishment, that is without the year 2020. Looking at accumulating these numbers over six years is very rewarding. Many of these same women received a second certificate for multiple-year accumulations. These ladies were:, • Kathy Sponsler 557 • Sharon Mayhew 557 • Linda Whitney 641 • Marcia Duncan 814 • Julie Losey 883 • Bev Gray 883 • Mary Baker 1150 • Cathy Bizarri 1328 • Elene Water 1462 • Carol Schmidt 1694 • Cara Ausmus \*4041 • Donna Pinger \*4194 • Lois Retherford \*5258



Becky Thomas, District Director, is swearing in the newly elected officers. Cara Ausmus, President, Elene Waters, First Vice-president, Judy West, Secretary, Donna Pinger, CVH Director and Newsletter, Marcia Duncan, Public Relations.



MCHCE, members who have volunteered 100 hours in 2022, are being honored at the Annual Meeting. Donna Pinger, Elene Waters, Bev Gray, Linda Whitney, Cara Ausmus, and Sharon Mayhew each received a Certificate. Julie Losey, Kathy Sponsler, Cathy Bizaari, Mary Baker, and Lois Retherford were unable to attend the Annual.



MCHCE also honored members who have volunteered more than 500 hours since 1917, that was our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an Organization. In the front row are Donna Pinger, Elene Waters, Beverly Gray, Linda Whitney, and Cara Ausmus. In the back row are Carol Schmidt, Marcia Duncan, and Sharon Mayhew. The members who were unable to be at The Annual meeting were Kathy, Julie, Mary, Cathy, and Lois.

If they had over 500 hours in one year's time, each received a gold seal for every 500-hour increment. I used all of my gold seals!! What a fulfilling reward!



NBNU met for unit meeting in May. We were able to honor Lois Retherford at our meeting. Lois received a certificate for volunteering 1682 hours in 2022. What an achievement! Lois also received a second certificate for the greatest amount of accumulated volunteer hours in service to the Community. She has volunteered 5258 hours for the years of 2017 to 2022



Aleshia Kenney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist, was our guest speaker. Her program was titled "Pollinators and Bees, What Is All the Buzz About?"

Aleshia Kenney, Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, presented a program called "Pollinators and Plastics: What is All the Buzz About?" to the Mercer County Home Community Education. She stressed that the public has been informed and educated about the decline of bees as pollinators and the fact that many issues play a part in this decline. Scientists have given us several reasons to be vigilant about our use of chemicals, use of native plants to entice the bees and butterflies to feast and find shelter, and to use natural substances to limit the growth of unwanted vegetation. She also stressed that the farmer is as reliant on bees for pollination as the gardener. Farm crops such as beans and hay need pollinators, as well as cover crops needing pollinators. Farm crops such as those planted for the truck farming industry, such as watermelons, pumpkins, cucumbers, berries, plus others need pollinators. She began explaining what is happening today and then began covering our use of plastics and the connection between plastics and pollinators. I shouldn't say the use of plastics but rather the "discard" of plastics because the decomposition of plastics can be found in the air, soil, and water. How, you ask? The sun is not only the major contribution to photosynthesis giving plants the only living things that produce their own food. In plants this process is vital because it sustains life on earth. Through photosynthesis plants make energy in the form of sugar to sustain their life as well as oxygen which is released into the air for all mammals to breathe.

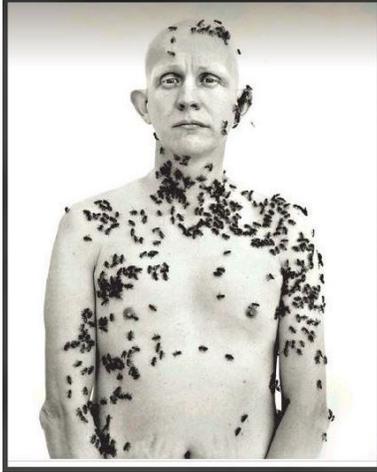
All plants that are flower bearing need pollinators to move pollen from stamens to pistils to fertilize the egg to create a seed for the next generation. How, you might ask? How do plastics relate to bees and pollination? Lets start with the plant kingdom. All plastics are petroleum-based products. As they break down or decompose, the chemicals in their makeup begin to break down and can enter into the soil. The plants will take in these chemicals through the roots and with transpiration they are carried throughout the plant. So now, plants can be infected with unlikely water being transported to its leaves and flowers. Aleshia tells that one complicated aspect of decomposing plastic comes from the sun with UV rays breaking down plastics over a long period of time. Does the plastic just breakdown into nothing and leave the earth clean? NO! It breaks into tiny, tiny pieces called microplastics. Microplastics can then be found in the air, water, and soil. So tiny that they can move about the earth unnoticed or unseen by humans. Aleshia went on to explain that even smaller than microplastics are nanoplastics. Nanoplastics are fibers from polyester cloth and plastic shredding over periods of time. So much more science is needed to understand the bees in this process of nano plastics. These plastics are also in the air, water, soil and could bees possibly contact any of these miniscule plastic shreds? Why, yes they do! They fly through the air and pick up these nanoplastics on their fuzzy bodies and transport them to the plants and then back to their beehives. At the beehive these tiny plastic parts can be woven into the hive construction and even into the honey. Is it possible that bees are ingesting these nanoplastics into their bodies? Not yet specifically known. In the long run, how is this all affecting the pollinators and plants? This too—is not yet known. So much is still unknown. Science is only at the tip of this iceberg. We have yet to learn what happens to the whole of the "Titanic"!

Burlew, Rusty, 2022, "A looming honey bee threat; colorful microplastic particles", American Bee Journal, volume 162, August, 2022, pp. 863-866. Kenney, Aleshia, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist. Kutner, Jenny, 2014, "Bees Are Recycling our Plastic for Us", The Dodo Daily Science. 14

# *Rock Island*

Rock Island County HCE celebrated their 102nd Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 24, 2023. At our business meeting, we elected and installed the new officers for the 2023-2024 year. Becky Thomas, District 1 Director, installed our officers. We were so glad to have her with us this year.

Our speaker was Ron Fischer, a man who has worked with bees for many years. He was a font of information and spoke of his experiences over the years. He brought one of his favorite pictures to share with us:



After Mr. Fischer spoke, we had a drawing for some lovely gifts donated by every unit and several members, followed by a delicious salad luncheon.

Rock Island County will have our combination Cultural Arts Day and International Day on Saturday, October 8, 2023. Everyone is welcome.

This article was included in our last county newsletter -

### **Nebraska Beekeeper Had To Kill 50,000 Bees**

An Omaha, Nebraska beekeeper said he had to kill around 50,000 bees in an effort to prevent the spread of a contagious disease that can kill bees. Mark Welsch, the owner of Elmwood Park Honey, said he recently found one of his hives infected with American foulbrood.

According to Welsch, it's a relatively rare disease that gets into the bee's larvae and kills them.

He said he didn't want it spreading anymore, so he put the bees in soapy water to kill them before burning the hives. Incinerating them is the best way to stop the spread.

"It's just sad to do that, but you have to do it for the good of everybody. There are beekeepers not far from here with hives, I have hives not too far from here," Welsch said. He wants other local beekeepers to be aware that the disease is in Omaha, and to keep an eye on their colonies.

# *Stephenson*

HELLO FROM STEPHENSON COUNTY!

“Bee” flexible. – Kathi Emery,  
Monroe County

As I write this article, Memorial Day is past and we are fast approaching the July 4th holiday. Summer is here with vacations, fairs, reunions, and picnics. Before you know it we will be back to school for the kids! Here in Stephenson County, our HCE members are working on setting up several events. We will have a display at the Stephenson County Fair with information on our organization. Once again we will have short demonstrations and crafts for fairgoers. We will have chairs set up for people to take a break as well as card tables with coloring sheets and crayons for the younger population. Last year coloring was very popular with the kids and even adults.

Our county is looking forward to the District 1 meeting on Thursday, August 10, in Mount Carroll. On Saturday, September 23, from 1-3, our Stephenson County HCE will be holding an open house at the Farm Bureau building in honor of the 100th birthday of our organization. Everyone is invited to come and help us celebrate! Plans are also being made for Saturday, October 14, for our county's annual and international meetings at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. It looks like it will be a busy summer and fall for Stephenson County HCE!

Enjoy the Summer! Janice Fryer

# DISTRICT 2 NEWS

## DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

Hello HCE ladies, It's hard to believe we just started summer and we're already thinking about fall. Before that I would like to remind everyone of IAHCE Workshops in August on the 8th, 9th, and 10th in the three locations throughout the state. There is lots of information to share with everyone. I know that everyone in District 2 is getting ready or already working hard on helping with county fairs and 4-H clubs. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing information on the 100th Anniversary in March and all the exciting things that are being planned. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I want to stay in touch with you all.



### *Du Page*

The rescheduled 4-H International Night was a delightful and entertaining way to finish off tax day. Our HCE booth celebrated Egypt and handed out sesame bars. We had a community service day on April 17th, followed by a walking tour of the Egyptian Museum in DeKalb on April 18th. Another community service day was May 17th. The Du Page County Annual Meeting featured "The KB Adorables and Men in Black" stretching and moving to music. The lesson for living "Don't Go It Alone: Improving Your Social Connections", was presented in June. Bugs didn't chase us away from our "Morning in the Park" on June 15th at Herricks Lake Forest Preserve. The Lunch Bunch visited an old favorite, Carol's Garden in Carol Stream, in May. Quincy's in Naperville was a favorite spot. After having to redo their sprinkling system during the pandemic, they reopened with shorter hours. Then the brothers sold the business and the new owners reopened it five months later as Tasty Biscuit. The Lunch Bunch visited them in June.

Mylon Fisher



Always be kind.  
-Bobbi McEntire

If you have faith  
you have hope.  
If you have  
hope, you have  
everything.  
Karen Reynolds



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Newsletter subscriptions are now \$15.00 per year. Subscriptions will renew/expire on December 31st. Those individuals or counties with newsletters expiring between now and December of this year will need to pay \$5 per issue and the \$15 rate for next year to make yourself current.

Example: If your subscription expires between now and– September, you will need to pay \$10 for the August and December issue plus \$15 for next year's subscription.

If your subscription expires October-December, you will need to pay \$5 for the December issue plus \$15 for next year's subscription.

Please contact PR Director, Emily McDowell if you are unsure of your expiration dates or need help figuring the amount out.

## *Grundy*

Our 84th Annual Meeting was held April 20th with the theme of Egypt. The two gentlemen brought items to show what they purchased in Egypt and had a wonderful slideshow and talk. Our Morris Morning unit made the pyramids for our annual meeting and additional decorations as mummified pharaohs and pyramid boxes filled with candy. We even did the dance "Walk like an Egyptian". Some dressed up in Egyptian robes. Even our IAHCe President and 1st Vice President were "Walking like an Egyptian".



Once a month we bring food, either boxes of cereal, cans of vegetables, mac & cheese, something that does not spoil to be donated to the community micro-pantries. In a month we collected almost 400 cans for "The Road to 100th".



During the last few years we collected over 700 pounds of plastic caps and were able to get two benches made to honor our 50 plus year members. We donated the benches to Immaculate Conception School and the I & M canalport in Morris. The book club has read the following: Mercy by Jodi Picoult, The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon, and My Mess is a Bit of a Life by Georgia Pritchett.

Monica Evans

# Kane



Kane County HCE participated in the 4-H Foundation fundraising, Pork Chop Dinner and silent auction evening, April 15th. Several members and family enjoyed the dinner with 4-H members helping serve and clean up. Our board had prepared an auction basket and some units also donated to raise dollars to the Extension Center. A total of eight baskets were sold raising \$213.00.

Kane County joined DuPage County on April 18th for a trip and tour to DeKalb. The Egyptian Theater was explored as part of the country of study. Seventeen people participated with seven members and one guest from Kane County. We learned that this early 1900's theater has gone through many renovations but has maintained the original décor and has had many restorations of original pieces, all of this while bringing audiences modern conveniences of today. Funding is dependent on local sources. An elevator to the balcony is the next adjustment to be made. Following the informative tour of the theater, a luncheon was enjoyed at the Lincoln Inn Restaurant.

Annual meeting was held at the Extension Center in St. Charles on May 17. The morning began with the business meeting with 40 in attendance. Displays of ongoing activities were prepared by the directors. Floral table centerpieces were designed by member Donna Zierer. The JUNKLUGGES business owner, Bob Schmitt, presented a slide show featuring a local business that aims at environmental issues. Any item that is obtained in the process of helping people dispose of unwanted possessions is either reused, recycled, or distributed to charitable organizations. Mr. Schmitt is adamant to a "Give to a Cause" motto, fulfilling the mission of supporting local charities and keeping items out of the landfill. Recycling efforts by HCE members continue as fabrics, Styrofoam, stamps, and egg cartons were collected. These items plus many more were taken by board members to be distributed to local agencies.

International Director, Naomi Redman, has continued her lessons on bees at each board meeting and displays at the special events. She prepares refreshments which include honey in the recipe for each monthly meeting. The favorite so far is the honey graham fruit pizza. We have become very spoiled.

June 21st brought a "sweetness visit" to the Whimsy Farm Candy Store in Wasco, arranged by Cultural Enrichment Director, Joan Rossi. The store features international candies, teas, ice creams, and a party venue for children's events. The Argentine native owner, besides describing his business, provided an international study by telling us of his native land and his family immigrating to the USA. A visit to the Luau Coffee Shop followed with lunch and a great interchange of ideas among the 14 Kane County HCE members.

Units will participate with demonstrations, arts and crafts, and exhibits of projects at the Kane County Fair in July. Membership will be a theme for the display. Follow up on membership interest will take place at the all county picnic in August.

We look forward to the district meeting in August and seeing our Northern Illinois HCE members.



# Lake

Hello from Lake County,

We are a lot drier than we expected to be this time of the year; rainfall in our county has been negligible these last 3 months. Since our last article, members who attended the state Conference reported on their experiences, we awarded our county scholarship, held our annual business meeting, presented a BEE Cause Pollinators Feed the World program, and enjoyed International Day.



Along with our state and county president, Angela Hicks, we had four other LCAHCE board members and two unit members attend the 2023 IAHCE Conference. Our treasurer, Sandy Henke, received the Member of the Year Award for District 2. Attendees reported having a great time to those of us who could not make it. Pictured below, left to right, are Angela Hicks, Ann Drevalas, Barb Rowland, Sandy Henke, Jane Ellen Keroson, and Christina Rowland shown dressed for the Elsie Mies Banquet. Lana Osknee Keroson, who also attended, is not pictured.

In April, LCAHCE awards our Helen Volk Johnson Scholarship to a family member of LCAHCE or to a 4-H member in our county. This year we awarded the scholarship to 4-H member and senior in high school, Claire Hickson. She plans to attend Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan upon graduation.

On Friday, April 28, we held our 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting. All our units were represented, including Mail Box and MSHCE (Men Supporting HCE). "Pearls of Wisdom" decorated name tags, members, and our auditorium. Attendees were asked to share a "pearl" or two of their own. Rita Overacker, IAHCE's District 2 Director, installed the 2023/2024 Lake County Board shown below.

**L to R: Angela Hicks (President), Barb Rowland (Vice President), Candace Keegan (Secretary), Sandy Henke (Treasurer), Pat Weitzmann (Cultural Enrichment), Ann Drevalas (Family & Community Issues), Jane Ellen Keroson (International).**



On June 10, Angela Hicks hosted a program on BEE Cause Pollinators Feed the World. Master Gardener, Carolina Schottland, was our speaker and gave a great presentation on native pollinators. One of the many things we learned was the honeybee is not a native pollinator in our area. That fact was certainly a surprise.



International Director, Jane Ellen Keroson, hosted our International Day event featuring IAHCE's 2023 Country of Study, Egypt. It was held on Saturday, June 24. Our speaker, Ted Vickers, worked for the US State Department setting up printing facilities around the world to print books and materials for our embassies and off shore governmental businesses. Ted spent several years living in Egypt and gave excellent descriptions of his life there. He also told us about his travels around the country and showed pictures of his favorite temples and pyramids. The event included lunch with a menu of Egyptian inspired food, and a raffle for a basket containing Egyptian related items to raise money for the Friendship Projects Fund. Stay well and be safe until next time.



**Ted Vickers**  
**Guest Speaker**

Be careful what you say for you cannot unsay it!



**Candace Keegan**

**Jane Ellen Keroson**  
**International Director**

The International Day and Membership Tea was held May 18<sup>th</sup> with an Egyptian theme. Thirty two members and guests attended. International Director, Carol Elmore, planned the activities of the day. As the members and guests registered and conversed with each other, they could complete a word search that was provided in the international packet from IAHCE Conference. The tables were decorated with lanterns, pictures of life in Egypt, and in keeping with the theme of promoting pollinators, each place setting had a packet of flower seeds. Procuring the ingredients for the authentic cookies was an adventure in finding two Middle Eastern grocery stores. The cookies and desserts served were mainly those eaten after sundown during Ramadan. Three women of the Seneca Morning Unit shared their experiences while visiting Egypt. The day ended with the ladies making a cartouche bookmark using hieroglyphic letter stencils to spell their name. Sandy Martin was recognized for being the newest 50 year member.

Our next event is preparing the ever popular breakfast egg sandwiches at the 4-H Fair. We are relying more on 4-H members and parents to work in the food stand the rest of the time for the four day fair.

We are looking forward to the special activities planned for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IAHCE, however, *LaSalle County is in its 105<sup>th</sup> year.*

Smile, it makes people  
wonder what you are up to.

## Livingston

Hello from Livingston County H.C.E. My mind went somewhere south when I was to send the April letter for the IAHCE CHRONICLE. I got to the Board meeting and it hit me like a brick that I had forgotten to send it. Well here we go, what we have done and what we have planned for the rest of the year. On March 14-16, 2023, President Arlene Martell and Treasurer Jean Gaspardo went to the IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham, IL. They both had a great time. Four ladies took Cultural Enrichment projects; Linda Vercler came home with two purple ribbons in counted cross stitch, one entered a quilt that had her family heirloom hankies. Also entered was a knitted shawl and a painting. Super Saturday was held in Bloomington, IL at the McLean County Farm Bureau office. Lessons were given on creating a Hummingbird Haven, some little known uses of hankies, and also the art of delicious desserts. I gave the programs at 10. The Livingston County Annual meeting was held in Pontiac Illinois at the Extension office on April 17, 2023, with 20 members and 7 guests present. Our board served a nice breakfast, the guest speaker was Lenore Sobota, a nature columnist from the Pantagraph. Angela Hicks, our IAHCE president, gave a nice talk. We gave out certificates to members with 50 years membership or more. Rita Schaffer is our longtime member at 75 years! Also, members were recognized for volunteer hours. A memorial service was held for three members that have passed. Two of the three ladies were on our board for a long time. We said goodbye to Ellie Bossert our secretary and Marilyn Edwards, our first vice president. Stepping in for Ellie will be Connie Kostelc and for Marilyn will be Linda Vercler. Thank you very much for your many years of service. The meeting was adjourned. May and June board meetings consisted of lessons for 2023 and 2024, getting ready for our 4-H fair July 19-22, 2023. There were discussions about the 100 year celebration of IAHCE in 2024. We also interviewed and selected 2 winners for our scholarships.

Stay tuned! Until next time,

Lucille Wiechmann Public Relations/CVH



## *McLean*

Summer and all its activities are going fast. McLean County units finished the program year learning about “Hummingbirds” and “The Art of Delicious Desserts”. In June units planned adventures to restaurants, museums, and shopping. The Community Service Days made some seat belt protectors with more cut out to sew. Five large blankets were turned in by seamstresses. Members met for Read and Share of *The Lions of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue* by Fiona Davis. Fundraising continues –Downs Farmers Markets plus the Old Rugged Barn bake sales.

Members and guests will have enjoyed the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting with a Cultural Enrichment and Fine Arts Show held at the Christ Lutheran Church July 11– including lunch and socializing. “The Secret Life of Honeybees” by Patti Koranda, was the program highlight. The popular Cultural Enrichment programs started off in April when members heard Traci Howe from The Olive Bin present on oils and vinegars followed by lunch at Fiesta Ranchero. May found 24 members and 8 guests enjoying a tour at the Van Dolah Castle in Lexington, Illinois and lunch at Uncle Vait’s. The fun cultural enrichment in June attended by 19 was lunch at Busy Corner, Goodfield, followed with a tour in Eureka of Scottwood Floral, shopping at Brakers Market and Uncle Bob’s Ice Cream.

Family Issues/Community Outreach continues to collect for Home Sweet Home Missions – dryer sheets and men’s stick deodorant. Five members plan to attend the 24th Annual NVON Conference in Parkersburg, WV July 18-20. The McLean County Fair July 26-30 includes Young at Heart Day July 27, 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. Officer Orientation for the coming year is held by the McLean County HCE Board August 22. Then we are off to an educational fun-filled year of programs. Egypt will be studied after the interesting program this past year on Italy.

Save the Date: HCE Attic Treasures Sale will be Saturday, October 21, 8a-2p at the McLean County Fairgrounds in the Mini Expo Building. For current updated information and more details, visit our media sites- **Website: [www.mcleanhce.org](http://www.mcleanhce.org) and LIKE our Facebook page at: McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.**

See you in McLean County! Come Visit!  
Barb Jurgens



Wishing everyone a great summer!

Members of the Will County HCE met at the WC Farm Bureau for their annual meeting on May 11th. Our theme again reflected the current IAHCCE theme “Pearls of Wisdom..”. We asked our members to wear a strand of pearls and dress up in brightly-colored clothing. Some even donned hats for our events. Everyone looked appropriately attired for our “afternoon tea” luncheon. In their addresses to the members, Gail Shaw (President) and Carolyn Yoemans (Vice President), shared some interesting “Pearls of Wisdom” that they gathered that was very timely and clever.

Tina Benson, CVH, thanked everyone who submitted forms to her. She also awarded members with 500 volunteer hours with a certificate. Elaine Czajkowski (Community Issues), thanked everyone for bringing food items that will be donated to the St. John’s Food Pantry. Andrea Zoelle, introduced our new country of focus; Egypt, to the members.

Carolyn announced our next Bunco Game Day will be on July 18th. Our members love this get-together very much. Members will bring their own lunches and the board will provide dessert and drinks. Gift certificates to local restaurants will be awarded to winners. Members are encouraged to bring guests. Our featured speaker, Sandy Vasco (President and Director of the Will County Historical Museum and Research Center), spoke to the members about contributions pioneering women of Illinois made that still benefit women today. The day before, Mary Barrett, brought her collection of dishes, teapots, silver, cloth tablecloths, and napkins, and the board members set the tables for the tea. Bella Cucina, a local caterer, provided the scones, tea sandwiches, and desserts. Tony’s Fresh Market also donated several trays of cookies for dessert. Several varieties of teas were provided to our members to try. Our members very much enjoyed the tea and for some this was their first experience. It was our board’s first attempt. After the tea, Rita Overacker, District 2 Director, installed the 2023-2025 officers.

Mary Barrett

## DISTRICT 3 NEWS

### DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill

Happy summer! I hope you’re starting to enjoy the fresh fruits and vegetables as they arrive in your garden or the farmer’s markets. I especially enjoy those fresh green beans!

What a great turnout we had for our first mini district meeting on June 28! Thank you for your support, and especially to the Macon County ladies for the decorations and delicious cakes. I hope everyone was able to take home a special idea or two to share with their unit and county members. We will meet again August 9<sup>th</sup> in Springfield where you will have a few special surprises awaiting from the state board. Then, on Wednesday, November 1, we are planning our next mini meeting, again in Decatur. If you have suggestions for any changes or other ideas, please let me know. This is time for YOU, and I want it to be beneficial.

A pearl of wisdom from Barbara Bush- “You have two choices in life. You can choose to like your life and be happy; or not like your life and be grumpy. Choose “happy.”



# Champaign

Champaign County HCE held our spring craft fair and plant sale at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building on April 28 and 29. There were 18 vendors and 6 were members of CCHCE. Beautiful handcrafted items were for sale and also we sold plants from a local nursery. We also had a bake sale with members donating delicious items for the sale. The entry fee for the event will go to the Illini Heritage Rehab and Care Center. The bake sale proceeds went to the AMBUCS Trykes for Veterans.

Our community projects include rolling newspapers for the local Humane Society, collecting fronts of greeting cards and sending them to St. Jude Ranch in Boulder City, Nevada, and making favors for a local nursing home. We continue to support "The Family Room" that assists children in transition (Foster children in Champaign County) with donated clothing items and monetary donations. On May 24th, we had a countywide luncheon at the Country Cottage Farm in Fisher, IL. Members had lunch on the patio overlooking the beautiful gardens and farm fields. Members were able to walk the beautiful landscape gardens and visit two consignment shops filled with home and garden decor and antiques.

Our sewing group is still meeting regularly to make weighted blankets for autistic children in Champaign County. Hand made blankets were given to families in need at the Autism Expo in May. The CCHCE Book Club meets monthly at a local restaurant for breakfast and then enjoys discussions on the monthly book choice. Most of our units are meeting during the summer for lunch or special outings in the area. Several units had gone to the Country Cottage Farm for their outings. So far this year we have had 10 new members join CCHCE. All have joined by attending unit meetings.

Our next event will be our ice Cream Social and our 105th Annual meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium, 801 N Country Fair Dr. Champaign. We welcome other county HCE members to attend our events. See our website [Champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com](http://Champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com) for details.

Carol Froeschl, CCHCE PR



May 24<sup>th</sup> Country Cottage Farm Luncheon

Members rolling newspaper for Humane Society

# Macon

We enjoyed the special program, "How the West was Won with Needle and Thread", on April 28 that was presented by Melissa Gouty. She presented a historical program with photos of the hard-working women who crossed the western frontier. We had over 80 members and several guests who attended. Delicious cookies and lemonade, tea or water, was served. Several door prizes were awarded. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon!

Our Spring Meeting on May 3 was also a great success. The delicious food was prepared by the Richland Culinary Class and Chef Tucker. Lyn Stevens presented a beautiful program of their trips to Alaska. Certificates were given out for membership years. We have members who have been with us for many years. Rosemary Knap has been with our Macon County HCE since 1968!

On Wednesday, June 28, our Unit 3 District Director, Karen Cahill, will be doing a mini-district workshop for all of the counties that she travels to. She will be presenting the latest information from the state board's June retreat and will have a lesson for the attendees to take home. There is no cost to attend. Refreshments and door prizes will also be available.

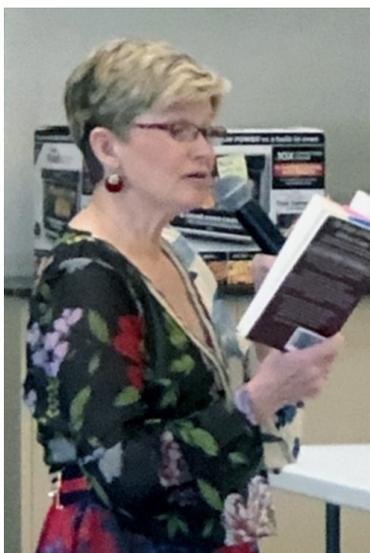
On Monday, July 10, we will have our monthly board meeting in the morning and a program planning for next year in the afternoon. We encourage any of our members to submit ideas for programs that they would like to have. These ideas are compiled into a list that is sent to all of the members to vote on.

September 20, will be International Day for our Tri-County area. October 9-13 will be HCE Week and many interesting and fun programs will be presented. We will have Christmas ideas by our very own creative member, Gini Smith; fire training tours at the Macon County Training Facility, and a wildlife trip to Aikman's Wildlife, which is the former Rockhome Gardens. Our Fall Meeting will be Wednesday, October 25 in the Illini and Clover rooms at the extension office.

As you can tell, Macon County is a very active group. We are still doing pillowcase sewing days. Our Pana HCE puts together hygiene bags containing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. to give to the local food pantry. Our Center Unit collects non-perishable food throughout the year for the Taylorville Food Pantry.

Have a wonderful summer with your family and friends!

Linda Austin



Hello again! Piatt County AHCE has presented its first meeting of 2023! Our Cultural Enrichment Day Celebration was held in Cerro Gordo on January 18, 2023. We all had a great time! This program started out with a presentation, **“Stan’s What’s It”**, planned and prepared by Stan Seevers. What was this all about? Well, of course, it was about antique tools!

Six Members of the Piatt County AHCE attended the 2023 IAHCCE State Conference. Our local Piatt County AHCE is proud to announce that we received the following recognition: Our **“Quiet Quilts”** project, organized by Miriam Seevers, received a **blue insignia award** and here are the judge’s comments: (“Quiet Quilts” is a wonderful descriptive name for a fidget blanket. What talented ladies participated in this project! Your AHCE ladies are so creative as well to make the quilts.”)

The Piatt County AHCE has presented two very important HEALTH RELATED lessons so far this year. The first of these two lessons was: **“Gluten-Free—The Gluten Basics”** This very thorough package lesson was put together by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service located in Noble County, Indiana. The second of these two lessons was: **“The Fuel to Fight Cancer”**. On March 2, 2023, Caitlin Mellendorf presented this Educator Taught Lesson, at the Piatt County Extension Office.

Purdue Extension of Vermillion County in Indiana put together Piatt County AHCE’s May Lesson: **How Financially Prepared Are You?** This lesson is very thorough and well thought out! It also includes a lot of information that we all need to be aware of in order to prevent emergency financial problems in the future if financial responsibilities in our homes change unexpectedly.

**De-stress in the Garden (Stress and stress Management)** was the lesson presented in April, 2023. Hans Seelye defined stress as “the non-specific response of the body to any demand for change”. Stress, of course, can be a side-effect of or a catalyst to mental, physical, or environmental health problems. We discussed why and how working in the garden can be helpful. This lesson was put together by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Our June Package Lesson: **Superfoods: Fruits & Veggies** was developed by Angela Rathert, a 4-H Youth Educator in Indiana who works for Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. This lesson discusses the importance of fruits and vegetables in our daily diet and how to increase our intake of these nutrient dense (full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber, but low in calories and sodium) superfoods!

As you can see, several of our programs were well-done presentations that came from the Indiana Cooperative Extension Service organization.

Now we are working on preparing for our September presentation of International Day: A Study of Egypt.



Quiet Quilts



State Conference Attendees



Stan Seevers (Presenter)

# Sangamon

In April Sangamon County celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization with a luncheon and style show of wedding gowns from each decade. The gowns were from past and present members. It was enjoyable day attended by members and guests.

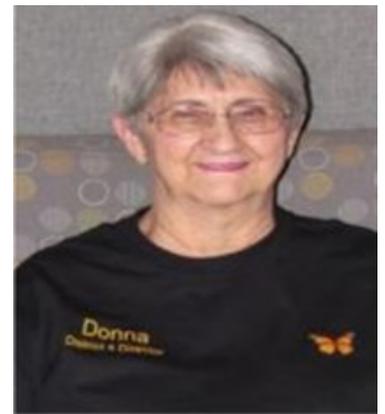
May was a busy month. A trivia day was sponsored. The event was held at a local church with food available. Tables of 8 players answered questions on many topics, bid on silent auction items, and purchased food. The afternoon was well attended and added funds to our treasury. Fun was had by all who attended.

We partnered with Master Gardeners at their plant sale to do a bake sale. Many sweets were offered and sold that day. This was a good way to increase the treasury with little time and energy involved. Members were very supportive with baked goods and candies. The items remaining were donated to the local veteran's home.

June the units toured the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. A program by Kathy Olsen, one of our members, on Monarch butterflies was presented this month. Monarchs are endangered and need to be aided with the planting of milk weeds and other pollinators.

## DISTRICT 4 NEWS

### DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards



We had a great Mini Meeting on Tuesday, June 20th. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. Valerie Belusko, University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development Educator from Hillsboro presented *Effective Team Building and Decision-Making* program. Thank you to Fayette County for everything they did and to each county that attended for their wonderful refreshments. It all came together to make a successful meeting. The counties that were unable to attend, you were missed.

Our next District 4 Mini Meeting will be Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia.

The State Board in June voted to do a couple of fundraisers to help defray the cost of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. They are taking pre orders till January 5, 2024. They are selling a 12" x 18" garden flag with the state emblem at \$20.00 and a 20-ounce tumbler with the state emblem and "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" at \$20.00. Watch for the order forms and information located within this newsletter. Also, pre orders will be taken at the August District Workshops.

Mark your calendars: Come, celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, March 12 – 14, 2024 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. County Presidents, shortly after December 1<sup>st</sup>, be on the lookout for the President's Packet that will have the March 2024 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference information in it. Please share this information with your Board and membership or watch for the pullout in the December 2023 Newsletter or online at the [iahce.org](http://iahce.org) website after December.

See you at the August 2023 District 4 & 5 Workshops,  
Donna Richards, District 4 Director

Don't bother people.  
– Bonnie Schroeder

## Clay

These four ladies were honored with 50 year pins and plaques. They are members of the Clay County 2nd Wednesday Travelers HCE unit. Pictured l-r Virginia Lamb, Brenda Ruckman, Clara Booth and Velma Akes

Be kind to one another  
and you will be happy!  
-Teresa Maguire



## Clinton

Clinton County HCE has been busy. We had a successful bus trip to Arthur, IL, by renting smaller buses for this trip. The two 14 passenger buses were great, less expensive, and we furnished our own drivers, and the gas. Only need 28 people to sign up then, which we got.

We donated \$2,000 to a bed making program called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" which provides handmade wooden beds and bedding to children in our county who don't have their own beds. Yes, there are children needing their own beds to sleep in, right in your own back door.

We raised this money by one major fundraiser a year, This year we are doing "Make It, Bake It, or Buy It" on Tuesday, October 10, at Carlyle KC Hall with a program, silent auction, and a penny raffle. Check it out on our website or the new District 4 Facebook page soon to get your reservation in for this event.

Karen Voss

HCE Clinton County HCE donated \$2,000 to "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" (Left to right) Kevin Rakers, President of the Salem chapter that accepted our donation, Clinton County HCE president, Kay Peters, HCE board member Carol Petermeyer, and HCE member Annette Tebbe.

There's a place for every-  
thing and everything in it's  
place. (quote from her dad)

Mary Lambert,  
DuPage County



# Effingham

The Effingham Extension Offices was the site of the international luncheon with an African theme. Casey Tappendorf, speaker, spoke on Tanzania, Africa where she visited a rescue center at Neema Village. Babies and children are taken to the center to be cared for daily. They are fed, clothed and given love by the staff. The mothers are educated on taking care of babies and how to birth them. She showed slides explaining customs, living facilities, and clothing. Some examples of various items were displayed. Casey also encouraged making dresses out of pillowcases. Casey is the daughter of Pat Tappendorf, International Chair on the Effingham HCE Board.

Mary Beth Hoene and Eloise Voelker met with a group of ladies at the Effingham Public Library presenting a program at their monthly meeting. The group called SWAG (Seniors With Attitude Group) each made a framed craft.

The Butter Braids and Cake Roll fundraisers continue to be good, yummy ways to add to the treasury.

Dining scarves, walker caddies, and cancer caps are still available and being distributed when they are requested.

Mary Liz Wright is always a hit with her presentations. Jams and Jellies were the topic at this program. Mary Liz is a Nutrition and Wellness Educator, University of Illinois Extension. She provided information about preserving fruits to benefit meal planning and budget. She and her family are avid gardeners, so she's quite qualified to pass on her knowledge to extension audiences. Mary Liz earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Loyola University and a master's degree in family and consumer science from Eastern Illinois University.



Be a kind and helpful neighbor.

Robin Tibbits,

Kane County

# Fayette

Happy 75th Birthday Fayette County Association for Home and Community Education !!! I joined FCAHCE two years ago and this year I was given the privilege of being the chair for our 75th Planning Committee. We had a representative from each of our five units on our committee and these ladies worked so hard to plan for this very important occasion. Over the course of several months I learned so much about the organization that I had just recently joined. There were over 300 ladies who came together to form our county's HCE and when they started this 75 years ago there were twenty units. They were farmer's wives, new-weds, and women who wanted to make a difference in their communities.

The fact that we are still going strong 75 years later is a testament to their commitment and dedication not only to this organization but to their communities as well. The very first program books were typed on a typewriter and were filled with songs that would be sung at meetings. As you go through each year's program book you can see where units merged together to keep their numbers up and tried so hard to gain new members. You also see the books go from typewriter to computer and from pocket-sized to book-sized. From songs being sung to programs that are being put on for our communities. A very real reminder of just how far we have come in those 75 years.

I learned that there is a FCAHCE quilt that has been signed by members throughout the years and those names have been embroidered onto the quilt. I learned about collections of 1000's of items that were donated to hospitals, children's homes, and military personnel over the course of these 75 years. I saw cook-books that had been made holding recipes from members long past. I heard stories of women who laughed, loved, and yes even bickered over things that were so important at that time. I got to know women who I never met and will not have the opportunity to meet as they are no longer with us but their legacy lives on.

I soon realized that our committee had a herculean task as we tried to somehow honor where we started and show off who we were. We chose our theme of Denim & Diamonds and got to work. When the day of the celebration arrived we all worked together to make the hall as beautiful as we could and then we welcomed our members with smiles and joy. We were privileged to have Evelyn Probts who is now 101 speak at our celebration. Evelyn has been in HCE for 80 years but she was only a FCAHCE member for 70 years because she transferred into our county after her move. We were also privileged to have the son of Anna Jean Rhodes speak so beautifully about his mother and her love of HCE.

New members were able to sign the quilt that our past sisters had signed and we will be having their names embroidered. We were able to have a beautiful memorial wall honoring our past sisters and listening to the memories they left behind was completely precious to me. We spent the day looking at our past, honoring those that have gone before us, and talking about how far we have come. It was a day of joy, laughter, and yes even some tears. Speaking as a newer member I must say that I learned so much and I somehow feel more connected with women I never even met. I don't know if those women realized just how big of an impact they would have forming FCAHCE 75 years ago but their legacy lives on in the 80+ members who continue to make a difference in their communities.

Patty Edwards



Memorial Wall



Evelyn Probts speaking about her years in HCE



Members signing the quilt

## Madison

What a busy year we have had! Spring ended with a Spring Craft Workshop, our Annual Meeting (which was Bridal themed), a county trip to the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, and our membership tea. All events were thoroughly enjoyed! This year we did our first trivia during the day for women only with Sue Busler as our host. We raised almost \$1500 in just three hours! We had eleven tables and a little over eighty women present. This year we have had three mini barn quilt paint nights and one wooden sign project evening. We also did a combination craft and cooking night with an Americana theme. We just wrapped up a large barn quilt class this past week with twenty in attendance. Out of those twenty, ten joined our organization! We are planning another large barn quilt class sometime in the fall and we will continue to alternate our wood sign and mini barn quilt classes each month, the second Tuesday evening of each month. Plans are also underway for our children's tea in August, our International Night, a fall craft workshop, and a holiday themed craft day. Last year, our fall craft workshop was a success, so we are hoping for another successful event. We are dividing the day between fall projects and Halloween themed projects. Before you know it, it will be the end of the year. This year sure is flying by!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Emily McDowell



## Marion

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Marion County Home and Community Education (HCE) was held on Thursday, April 21, 2023 at the Marion County Extension Office at 1:30 pm. Phyllis Henson-Phillips called the meeting to order, gave opening remarks, shared the recipe for the lotion bars we all received as a gift and gave the opening prayer. Connie Williams led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Club Collect. She then recognized those that have been members of Marion County HCE 5 or more years. Pat Young gave our membership report with a total of 24 members, 12 of which were mail box members. Attendees introduced themselves. Phyllis Henson-Phillips noted that our last Annual Meeting Minutes were found in the program book. Carrol Murray called for approval of the minutes and they were approved.

Carrol Murray gave the nominating committee report. The list of new officers for approval are as follows: Co-Chairs Phyllis Henson-Phillips and Dorothy Bruce, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Connie Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pat Young, Secretary Carrol Murray, and Treasurer Connie Williams. Nominations were asked for from the floor. No other nominations were received. Officers were elected. The new officers were installed by District 4 Director Donna Richards who elaborated on the IAHCE theme "Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together".

The Financial Statement for 2022-2023 and the Budget for 2023-2024 were given by Connie Williams and approved by all the members present. Phyllis Henson-Phillips then remembered members who have passed away since our last Annual Meeting. They were Helen Leonhardt, Marion County HCE Board 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and member of the New Beginnings Unit and Delane Richardson, a 50 year member.

Dorothy Bruce recognized The Homemaker of the Year for 2022/2023 Char Heskett. Char was not in attendance, but received a round of applause as we noted the work she has done in making quilts, bibs, and walker caddies for area facilities. Dorothy then gave a few additional remarks as Co-Chairman, particularly noting how grateful we were that Donna Richards could be with us. Carroll Murray announced the winner of the Door Prize of a \$25 IGA grocery card as Paula Barksdale. Members then enjoyed fellowship together and refreshments supplied by the board members.

Marion County HCE met Thursday, May 18, but due to technical difficulties were unable to watch the webinar that was scheduled. During the regular board meeting discussion was held about the future of Marion County HCE. We have observed a drop in attendance at lessons and special events since COVID. Due to a drop in membership to 11 regular and 12 mailbox members it has become clear that it is time to discuss disbanding the Marion County Home and Community Education. We have surpassed our goal of reaching 75 years for the county and the state will celebrate 100 years in March of 2024 giving current members the opportunity to attend that conference if they so desire. Because we want to finish well and disband in an organized manner, Treasurer Connie Williams reached out to the IAHCe President and District 4 Director. Their instructions found in the IAHCe Guidebook and our own policies, bylaws, and constitution will be our guide. The board was grateful for the kind words of the Illinois Association of Home and Community Education President that we are valued members of the organization.

Thursday, June 15, Marion County HCE Member Char Heskett presented a program entitled “My Experience with Being in a Book Club”. Char shared some different approaches to book clubs as well as well-known book clubs and different ways we might find books to read. She then gave reviews of some of her recent favorite books including American Dirt and The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post. During the board meeting that followed, members were updated that clean out of the old files of Marion County HCE has begun. Connie Williams and Phyllis Henson-Phillips spent one morning this month going through old lessons and financial reports as well as a variety of Unit records and pictures. This will continue next month with pictures or historical documents being kept to share at the IAHCe 100<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2024 or locally. The annual book sale was scheduled for Friday, September 15, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 am until noon. A \$25 gift in memory of former First Vice President, Helen Leonhardt, was made from the general fund to the Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund. Our next meeting will be held Thursday, August 17, at 1:30 at the Marion County Extension Office in Salem and will feature a horticulture lesson.

## DISTRICT 5 NEWS

### DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms

It has been a very busy time since the March Conference! I love attending county annual meetings, and I have been to several: Johnson, Hamilton, Union, White, and Massac counties. I hated to miss Perry County, but I had a family commitment that day. I attended the State Board meeting in June at Three Pines (a beautiful Victorian house/B & B), and I led the District 5 mini-district meeting June 22, which was held at the Franklin County Extension Office. It was exciting to have 47 people there! It was wonderful to share updates from the state board meeting with my District 5 counties and get them geared up for the August workshop. International Director Janel Kassing gave a presentation on her trip to the ACWW Triennial Conference in Malaysia, and it was very interesting.



The August District 4/5 Workshop is coming up quickly - Tuesday, August 8, at West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon. When your board meets in July, you will need to determine who will be attending. I am pleased we can have the workshop in District 5 and hope more of you will attend since it is closer for most of you. Thanks to the Jefferson Co HCE Board for their help in finding a location and caterer. We will be having our usual state board updates, officer/director breakout sessions, and district meetings. There will also be a short motivational presentation by the state board as well as the announcements of next year's 100<sup>th</sup>

anniversary theme and the new international country of study.

Reminders:

1. Keep track of those volunteer hours, both for HCE and other volunteer opportunities.
2. Make plans to attend the 100th annual conference in March 2024! It will be a great party and I expect a big turnout from our district.

Decluttering update: I had to declutter BIG TIME as we moved out of our farm house and prepare to move into our “retirement” house in town. We tossed a lot of unnecessary things and I donated a ton of stuff as well. It still seems like we have a million boxes to unpack and find a place for, and the whole process would have been smoother if I had started decluttering a lot sooner. Don’t make my mistake!

## *Hamilton*

The Hamilton County HCE ladies were busy throughout the spring. We hosted our Annual Day on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the United Methodist Church in Mcleansboro. District 5 Director Carol Harms was our featured speaker and assisted with the Board Member induction. Lunch was served and featured a chocolate fountain as part of the dessert options. Special entertainment was provided by Hamilton Co HCE President Becky Belcher. Thirty-eight members and guests were present for this year’s event. This was our highest attended Annual Day post-pandemic.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, HCE members gathered in the courthouse basement to make lap robes. Seven ladies were present. Some cut and some sewed. Thirteen lap robes were completed in total. All enjoyed fellowship and a light lunch. Also, in May a small group of members toured Meagan’s Rose Garden and other places of interest in Norris City. The ladies learned about different types of roses, the care and upkeep of roses, and each received a small bouquet to take home. The group stopped by a local coffeehouse for a snack after the tour.

In June the Hamilton County HCE hosted a picnic at Dolan Lake. The White County HCE was invited as well. All members were invited to bring their families too. About 30 members and guests were present. The ladies were invited to bring a dish to share. Games were enjoyed by everyone! Bingo was a big hit as well. The weather was pleasant and not too hot. We were so glad to host the ladies from White County and plans were made to hold another picnic in the fall.

## *Jefferson*

Before going to the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual IAHCE Conference, our members collected \$233.10 (\$1.00 from each member) with 13 Queen Bees for NVON: The Bee Cause “Pollinator program.

Seven members attended the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of IAHCE at Effingham. Members renewed friendships, shared and learned many lessons and ideas. We were honored to win awards in Cultural Arts and Community Issues. We entered 8 categories in the Best of Show.



Pray more than your worry.

-Rosalee Pearce

March 30<sup>th</sup> 5 members joined the Jefferson County Master Gardeners at the Brehm Library for a lesson on ‘Grow Native Plants’ to help increase pollinators. Also, during March members donated Paper products to Family Life Homeless Shelter and the board made a donation. A lesson was also given on Iris Folding.

State President, Angela Hicks, and husband attended the International Program on Egypt at Eternal Friends in Christ Church near Rend Lake April 10th. Twenty-six members and guests attended the intriguing program on Egypt by teacher and historian Bob Frakes. Foods of Egypt were enjoyed by all. Our passports were stamped. A member’s son, Steve Wagner, visited Egypt with his grandparents as a child and shared mementos and stories. Items were collected for food pantry and homeless shelter. Several newsletters carried articles on Egypt.

Our Cultural Arts Director, Sarah Waite traveled to all three units to demonstrate how easy it is to do hand embroidery. For some, it was a learning experience and for others it was a refresher course. She taught an easy way to do French knots. One member showed her skin cancer doctor the lesson after stitching her hand and now he has a new hobby!!

A tour of Jefferson County Historical Village by ten members and one guest was held after the May board meeting. They could experience the life of the pioneers, even a working blacksmith shop, general store, print shop, doctor’s office, church, school and cabins.

In May we had a plant sale of hanging baskets and red geranium pots. This was one of two fundraisers we held. We also collect empty ink cartridges and turned them in to help off set ink costs for the newsletter.

Spero Family Services has a youth building program for 16–23 year-olds who need to get their GED and learn construction and hospitality trades thru three day classes. They do not provide lunches so we are collecting non perishable microwave items and snacks for them.

Two scholarships were given: Jy’Zaree Barney of Mt. Vernon High School and Sophie Trader of Waltonville High School.

Our BIG new project: Since we are not in the extension office and have 70 plus years of scrapbooks, Donna Vancil and her grandson are compiling highlights, by years, to add to our new web page (HCEJeffersoncounty). Books will be given to the Jeff. Co. Historical Society when this task is completed.



# Massac

The 76<sup>th</sup> Massac County Annual meeting was held on April 29, with members and guests enjoying the “Pearls of Wisdom, Strung Together” Tea Party theme. Everyone wore their pearls and enjoyed a great program along with the beautiful Tea Party decorations.

New Members: Taylor Cruz, Jessica Lampley, Rebecca McConnell & Terra Temple were recognized and received a rose & gift. The 40 plus members were asked to stand and a certificate was given to 45<sup>th</sup> year member Mitzi Borum. We have several who have reached the mile stone of 46 – 73 years members. Mary Wessel, Jeannie Forthman, Neva Hicks, Brenda Langford, Alice Shelby, Judy Parr, Norma Korte, Mary Lou Stratmeyer & Betty Travis. New Frontiers won the unit with best attendance. Cards were at each place setting to encourage members to invite a new member and give them the card that explained HCE in a brief form. Volunteer hour certificates were passed out to: Anita McConnell, Judy Duckworth, Mary Wessel, Dorothy Holt, Neva Hicks, Carroll Duncan, Rozann Wilkins, Shirley Jennings, Susie Henley, Joyce Taylor, & Norma Korte. The program was on tea party etiquette, history of tea, and interesting facts about honey. Carol Harms, IAHCe District Director, was our guest for the day and shared upcoming dates and encouraged us to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> IAHCe Conference in 2024.

## HCE & Extension Facilities Scholarship

The winners this year were selected from 11 applications and announced at the Kiwanis/Rotary Awards night on April 27. They are: Sarah Wrye, daughter of Dee Dee & James Wrye; Mason Westbrook, son of Stacey & Chad Westbrook of Massac County High School, Ava McNeill, daughter of Molly Stephens and Troy Latham, son of Shannon and Deanne Latham from Joppa High School.



## Family Community Outreach

April, 116 items were donated for **The River Ministry**

May **Hope Unlimited** received 43 items, \$45, 5 quilts, disposable diapers, wipes, baby wash, clothes, and several Purses for the families.

**Ronald McDonald House** items delivered: 30 Personal care items, 20 lbs. tabs, 3 blankets and \$250. Thank you to Judy & Don Parr for delivering the items.

**June is Project Hope**, it was suggested to not bring food. Cleaning items, cloth & paper towels are welcome.

**International Night** will be **September 21** at St. John’s Church on Waldo Church Road. The country of study, Mexico. Each unit is asked to bring a Mexican Dessert. Melissa will have recipes available in August if you need them. Make plans to attend this fun night and invite a friend. Melissa has a guest speaker all lined up.

Norma had a pleasant visit with **WMOK Radio**, Kim Comer, on June 7, Coffee Break. She was very interested in all the lessons we have to offer HCE members and all the community projects we do throughout the year. Share what you learn with Kim from HCE when you see her and help support our local radio station.



# Perry

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Perry County HCE was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Pinckneyville Community Center. The theme was “Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together.” 45 members and guests attended the event. Janel Kassing, former District Director and current IAHCCE State International Director, attended the annual meeting in place of our District Director, Carol Harms, and installed the 2023 county board officers.

We had some great guest presentations on Pecans and Butter for the May 9<sup>th</sup> group meeting at the Pinckneyville Community Center. 34 members and guests attended the program and lunch. Karen Voss, from Voss Pecans of Carlyle, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on pecans (and gave samples and sold pecans too). Maggie Cimarolli, from the St. Louis Dairy Council, presented a very tasty lesson on “How Butter Makes It Better”. A delicious lunch and great fellowship were had by all attendees.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 48 Perry County HCE members and friends went on a “Great River Road Day Trip”. They visited the National Great Rivers Museum and toured the Melvin Price Lock & Dam in East Alton, IL. Then they explored Grafton via the Great Rivers Scenic Byway. After they toured Grafton and had lunch, they went on the Hakuna Matata Mississippi River Cruise and most participants rode the Grafton Sky Tour. They had dinner at the Pierre Marquette Park before returning to Pinckneyville that evening. Such a fun trip! Our bus trips are so fun that this trip filled up before we had a chance to get it advertised in our county newsletter!

The June 7<sup>th</sup> group meeting had 3 presentations by Jane Chapman and Rhonda Shubert at the Pinckneyville Community Center. 26 members and guests attended the program and lunch. Our topics were: Cooking with Herbs & Spices, Craniums & Geraniums, and Health & Hydration.

Our Book Club meets once a month and covers many genres of books. The Block Party unit has finished 5 patchwork block quilts to be given to needy families in the county. They will start meeting and creating again in October. Perry County HCE awarded 3 scholarships to 3 recipients that are college-bound or currently attending college. Our summer and fall months include getting ready for our big yard sale during the American Thresherman Association show in Pinckneyville in August, promoting HCE and selling quilt raffle tickets at Mardi Gras in October, getting ready for our Holiday Idea Day, and planning for another great bus trip to be announced. See more pictures of our events on our Facebook group, Perry County Illinois HCE - Association for Home & Community Education.



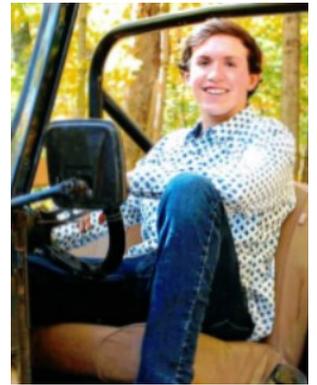
# Scholarship Report

This year there were 18 applicants for the IAHCE Scholarship. Determining a recipient is always a difficult decision and is based on many factors. After much deliberation, we congratulate the following four students as the 2023-24 winners.

Ananiah Leoni Barbee is from Louisville in Clay County (District 4). She plans to major in horticultural science and environmental studies at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Ananiah was a strong, very active member of FFA where she also managed the FFA Greenhouse. She was the captain of the scholar bowl team, a member of an equestrian drill team, as well as several clubs. Ananiah is currently studying French and Welsh languages independently. Judy Spiller, a member of Williamson County HCE, is her grandmother. Congratulations, Ananiah!



Alexander Wain Davis is from Olney in Richland County (District 4). He plans to get a welding certificate and associate degree from Olney Central College with the goal of becoming a union boilermaker or pipefitter. Alex was a high honor student, a member of the state winning FFA forestry team, as well as the Bass fishing team and soccer team. He has worked a variety of jobs during high school. Alex's grandmother is Janet Jones, a 44-year member of Richland County HCE. Best wishes, Alex!



Carly Jade Heisner is from Pinckneyville in Perry County (District 5). While attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, she plans to major in Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Science. Carly was an Illinois State Scholar, participated on a variety of sports teams, was a leader in several clubs, as well as being an accomplished musician on several instruments. Her volunteer activities are varied through 4-H, church youth group, music performances, and helping young swimmers. Carly also worked as a lifeguard and swim instructor. Her aunt, Rhonda Shubert, is a Perry County HCE member. Congratulations, Carly!



Emily R. Rupert is from Coulterville in Perry County (District 5). Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville is where Emily plans to begin her college experience on her way to eventually earning a degree in Elementary Education. During high school, she was an honor student and outstanding athlete in volleyball, basketball, and softball, winning special awards in each. Emily volunteered with Meals on Wheels as well as a variety of church sponsored events. Working on the family farm, babysitting, and working at a pool concession stand have also kept Emily busy. Emily has been a Perry County HCE member for two years along with her grandmother, Melinda Ruppert, a 40+ member. Best wishes, Emily!

Congratulations again to these fine young people as they pursue their collegiate dreams!

Karen Cahill, Scholarship Committee Chairman

Becky Belcher, Eleanor Gregory, and Emily McDowell, committee members

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

## NEWS FROM YOUR 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Available offices on the 2024 IAHCE State Board are:

President (you shall have served at least one full three-year term on the Board)  
International Director  
District 1 Director  
District 4 Director

At next year's conference in March 2024, we will vote on President and International Director. The District Directors will be voted on by their districts during the August 2023 Workshops.

All these offices are for three-year terms. If you are interested or can think of an HCE member who would make good candidates, please fill out an application. Application forms are found in the IAHCE Guidelines on pages 67 - 69.

Applications must be sent to this year's Nominating Committee Chair Donna Richards, 201 Eaton Dr., Apt 208, Newton, IL 62448 or scanned and emailed to Donna at [dsrichards001@hotmail.com](mailto:dsrichards001@hotmail.com) by October 1, 2023.

Thank you,  
Donna Richards  
2024 Nominating Committee Chair

If you can go out on Saturday, you can get up and go to church on Sunday. (quote from dad)

Don't brag on what you have, just be generous and share it. (quote from mom)

Treat others the way you want to be treated and don't say it about others if you don't want it said about you. (her own quote)

You only get one name, don't do something to mess it up! (her husband in reference to her kids)

Be proud of who you are! – Jeanne Stamm, Randolph County

# Important Dates to Remember

## IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

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

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

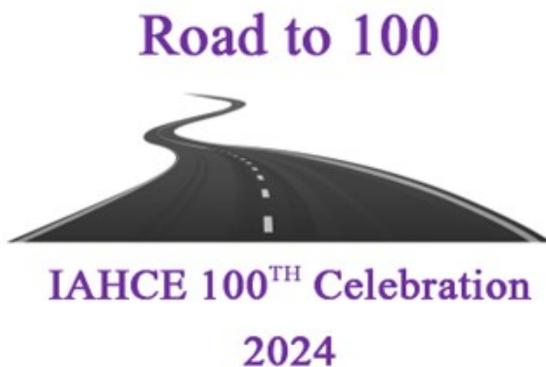
August 10th, 2023– District 1 and 2– Mt Carroll Church of God, Mt Carroll

## IACHE WEEK

October 9-14, 2023

## IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 12 – 14, 2024—Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham



It's ok to pat yourself on the back,  
even if no one else does.

–Nancy Haire of Kane County (quote  
from her mom)

Every day is a great day  
when I wake up!

–Naomi Redman of Kane  
County

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

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

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

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

# Photos from The Triennial in Malaysia



**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR  
HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
P.O. Box 522  
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