



# *The IAHCE Chronicle*

## *Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE*

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# NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS



*Angela Hicks – IAHCE President*



Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

After the 100<sup>th</sup> Conference, the positivity and goodwill towards our organization was palpable. We renewed our excitement and dedication to move forward into the next 100 years for IAHCE. With that in mind, the IAHCE Board met in June to work together evaluating what we have accomplished throughout the years and begin planning for the beginning of IAHCE's next century.

We are encouraging each of the members to attend the August District Workshops. We will be sharing our plans for the future and introducing the new 2025 Conference Theme. It is our hope that you will work with us to accomplish the goals and mission of IAHCE. We look forward to seeing you once again.

In the meantime, it is a pleasure seeing the many places **Hattie Claire Everywhere** has travelled since the conference! Hattie Claire has been my travelling companion as I visit the HCE counties which I have shared on Facebook. At the time of this writing we are preparing to attend the NVON Conference in North Carolina. Continue to take Hattie Claire with you when you are doing HCE activities, maybe curious folks will ask about why and you can share your HCE story!

Continue to aspire to inspire each other and those around you!

*"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day." - Dalai Lama*

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# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## 1st VICE PRESIDENT – Kathy Peterson

Hope you have all had an awesome summer. Sorry for the short article, but I have a concussion and recovery seems to be a challenge for my brain. I am looking for donations to the time capsule. Any questions? Contact me and be creative.

I want to tell you that I have learned that the smallest acts of kindness can make someone's day. I have been overwhelmed by cards, flowers, cookies, hugs, painted rocks, bubbles, and a whole lot more. HCE women are ambassadors of kindness, faith, and fellowship.

I am working hard to see you in August. I cannot wait!

Wishing you all the best!



## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

Oh, how I love the lazy days of summer! Oh wait, does that happen anymore? My summer has been full of sun and fun, and maybe just a bit of laziness. In June your IAHCE state board met in Petersburg for an extremely busy and productive meeting. As we begin the first year of our next century it is important to re-evaluate and refresh our ideas and practices.

Some of the changes that will affect our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents:

**Membership Certificates** – I will continue to provide certificates for 25- and 50-year members. From now on, after 50 years, I will only provide certificates at 5-year membership intervals, 55, 60, 65 etc. Certificate requests can be emailed or mailed to me by January 5, 2025. Certificates will be given to you at our officer share shop at the Annual Conference in March 2025.

**Year-End Membership Report** – the report is now a combined report with the Treasurer's Transmittal form. The new form is available at IAHCE.org. You should have received the new form with your county and beginning membership number at the August workshops. This new form must be signed by both your county treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. Membership numbers and dues should be mailed to state treasurer, Melissa Chitwood, by January 5, 2025.

**Membership Award Booklets** – there is now only one membership award category – Membership Activity. Those award booklets must be postmarked by **January 5, 2025**.



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every HCE member county is eligible to nominate one deserving member. Member of the Year forms are available at IAHCE.org. Those forms should be mailed to me by October 1, 2024. Nominees will be voted on during the IAHCE October meeting. Winners will be announced at Annual Conference in March. One winner from each district will be selected. Please take the time to nominate a member from your county!

### It's time to say goodbye.....

I am in the final year of my term as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. It has been an amazing experience and I have learned so much about this wonderful organization. One of the main goals of IAHCE is leadership development. I would encourage anyone who is eligible to apply for this position. You will have the opportunity to work with an amazing IAHCE board. Forms are due to Melissa Chitwood by October 1, 2024.

I hope to see you all soon and **SHINE BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND!**

## SECRETARY- Cathy Eathington

Hello from west central Illinois. Our June board meeting was held in Petersburg again this year and we were very busy for three days.

In January my little great grandson Hudson arrived, so I now have three precious great grandchildren.

District Workshops are coming up in August. August 6 will be District 1&2 at Seneca High School. August 7 will be District 3 at the Southern View Chapel in Springfield. August 8 will be District 4&5 at St John's Lutheran Church in Effingham. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND, SEVERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE.

Several State Officers will need to be elected at our Annual Conference on March 11-13, 2025. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President must have previous IAHCE Board Experience. Others to be elected are Secretary, Family & Community Issues and Cultural Enrichment. Applications can be found on the IAHCE Web site or you may contact Melissa Chitwood at [mchitwood@illinois.edu](mailto:mchitwood@illinois.edu) or phone 217-493-4441. Applications are due October 1, 2024.

THANK YOU TO ALL COUNTY SECRETARIES FOR UPDATING YOUR OFFICERS AND LETTING ME KNOW OF ANY CHANGES.

See you in August, Cathy



## TREASURER- Melissa Chitwood



The NVON BEE Cause Pollinator Program concludes this year! Money is due by December 1, 2024 and should be mailed to: Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Heath, IL 61884 (make checks payable to IAHCE). Remember to send a copy of your report to Angela Hicks!

**IMPORTANT FORM UPDATE:** Transmittal forms will NOT be distributed at the August Workshops. Please go to the [iahce.org](http://iahce.org) web page, click refresh, and print your forms from there. There is a NEW 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Treasurer Membership Form. Submitting the incorrect form will NOT be accepted and could count against your County of the Year Application. The Friendship Projects Fund can also be found at [iahce.org](http://iahce.org). Please contact me with any questions regarding these forms.

### Melissa's Take on The 4 C's of a Diamond

Chances are, at some point you may have heard there are 4 C's of a Diamond. This stands for color, cut, carat and clarity—four features that are considered when distinguishing the quality of one diamond from the next. These four evaluations make each diamond individually unique. The question is, how do these C's relate to HCE?

**Color** - A diamond's color rating is actually an evaluation of the diamond's lack of color. However, unlike a diamond's lack of color I think of IAHCE has a beautiful spectrum of color. Members from all walks of life with varying backgrounds and experiences make up a colorful group for us to learn from each other.

**Cut** - The cut grade of a diamond communicates how well the stone is able to use light. The cut has to do with how well the diamond will "sparkle". As an HCE member we should allow ourselves to shine and sparkle, letting everyone see the beauty of HCE and all that it has to offer.

**Carat** - The carat weight of a diamond helps decipher the size of the stone. Don't judge HCE by our size. There are several counties in the state with few members who continue to do great work in their communities. It shows that as members we are getting the word out about HCE! Come join us and watch us grow!



Clarity- Clarity is the measure of how a diamond’s internal defects, or inclusions, affect the appearance of the diamond. Confucius said “Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without.” Remember, no one is perfect, no organization is perfect, but don’t dwell on imperfections, let the beauty of HCE be what people notice!

Diamonds have a hardness that makes them extremely durable and the way they distribute light gives them a brilliant look. Let’s work together to prove that “Diamonds Are Forever and So Is IAHCE!”

Remember; don’t let someone dim your brightness simply because it is shining in their eyes. Our future is yet to be written, let’s make it a brilliant one! Diamonds are Forever and So Is IAHCE!

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher



“*Summer Breeze* makes me feel fine, blowin’ through the jasmine in my mind.” Remember that Seals and Crofts classic from 1972? Well, some of you will. The song is about feeling good and enjoying the summer. Summer certainly makes me feel fine, but the song is not so much about summer, but about the simple comforts of coming *home* to familiar surroundings and family that give a feeling of security and contentment. I think of our “Aim for the Homemaker” that we recite at every meeting. *To have every home ... economically sound, mechanically convenient, physically healthful, morally wholesome, mentally stimulating, artistically satisfying, socially responsible, spiritually inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect.* Who wouldn’t feel security and contentment in a home like that? What would our world be like if every home had a homemaker striving toward those goals? That’s what HCE is all about. Let’s spread the word!

I hope you are planning to attend the August District Meeting The theme for 2025 Conference will be revealed and lots of good information will be shared. The education directors (Cultural Enrichment, Family and Community Issues, and International) worked hard at the June board meeting to make the Education Award categories more relevant by revising and condensing the categories and subcategories.

See ya soon!

### Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory

Your mind is a garden.  
Your thoughts are the seeds.  
You can grow flowers.  
Or you can grow weeds.



I want to say that I have many thoughts (seeds) and I choose to grow flowers, although some weeds are mighty pretty..... my favorite is the milkweed. When I taught second grade I had the children bring milkweed leaves to school so we could find the butterfly egg on the back of a leaf and we would watch for the egg to hatch into a caterpillar. The students would bring in more milkweed leaves to feed the caterpillars as they were hungry and became very fat and then they would spin a chrysalis. Next the fun began as we waited for the butterfly to appear. The butterfly would look so helpless and weak, but as it dried and began to use its wings, the beautiful creature put smiles on all our faces!



Our Family and Community Issues program has entered a state of metamorphosis (or transformation). The State Board has decided to no longer have a *Family of The Year*. This is due to the fact that this program is no longer a National Award and this award is not pertinent to our HCE goals of helping families and our communities. Another change is our Family and Community Issues awards. We will have only three categories: 1. Family Living, 2. Health, Food and Nutrition, and 3. Citizenship. We will have one award for each of the three areas mentioned in two categories. Counties with 55 members and over (which comprises 32 counties) will have 3 awards and the other group will be counties with 54 members and under (which comprises 29 counties) will also have only three awards.....one from each of the categories mentioned above. So, only 6 awards will be given for Family and Community Issues. Another change is that the current January 31 deadline will now be January 5.

Today we are Home & Community Education with our goal being EDUCATION. We will work to promote social and economic well-being in our homes and communities. We are not our Mother's Home Bureau anymore. We will see what beautiful "butterflies" will appear. All the best and God bless!

Eleanor



## International- Janel Kassing

June has been a busy month for me. First, I attended the State Board meeting in Petersburg, IL. We stayed on task to work on the business of our organization to keep moving forward in this new century. Some exciting changes are in store.

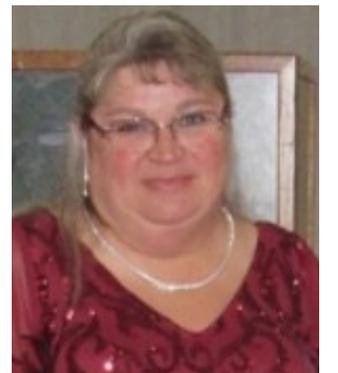
The week after state board meetings, I took a Caravan bus tour of the Northeast. We flew to Boston to join the tour and visited Cape Cod, Nantucket, the Norma Rockwell Museum, the home of Calvin Coolidge, and the estate of the Bush family in Kennebunkport, Maine. Did you know that Coolidge had a pet raccoon named Rebecca in the White House? She'd been sent as a possible Thanksgiving dinner, but the family adopted her as a pet. Such a cute story. It's amazing the animals that have called the White House "home". I think the Rockwell museum was my favorite place, but Kennebunkport was the most beautiful. We also visited "The Breakers". I will tour the Biltmore in July in Asheville, NC when I attend the NVON Conference.

On to August and I look forward to seeing you at Workshops. I will be announcing the new Country of Study for 2025- we will hop to a new continent. No hints other than that- see you then. I will be giving out an explanation of NVON, CWC, ACWW, and how they are part of your membership in IAHCE. See you soon, Enjoy the summertime!!

Janel

## Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales- Ashley Davis

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and getting out, having fun with family and friends. The IAHCE State Board met in Peterburg, IL for June meetings and stayed at The Three Pine Air BnB. As always it was laid back and relaxing. Never fear we still worked hard and got a lot accomplished.



It's that time again already! Time to get geared up for August workshops. This year we will be starting in the north and heading back to the south. It's always nice to know that it's time to gather with our members, have fun, make memories, get a refresher, and learn new things. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

So, this past year there were a few speed bumps that came up and I want to make sure that you all understand the way the paperwork is to be handled for the CVH program. At the August workshop, I hope to address some of these. I will be sure that it all is in the CVH information that will be given to you. I encourage you all to take the time and visit our IAHCE Website [www.iahce.org](http://www.iahce.org), you will find the CVH program information on pages 48-54. These pages will explain the program and you should be able to find most of your answers there. If you can't, please feel free to call, text, or email me at any time.

Be sure to stop by the IAHCE Sales table at the August workshops to check out the new merchandise that is in. Be sure to get your 2024 100th annual Conference Pin for \$6.00. And to save on shipping, be sure to come get your other goodies and lapel pins. Give a member your list and have them pick your items up for you.

Hope to see you all at August Workshops! Enjoy the rest of your summer and May God Bless You All.

## Public Relations– Emily McDowell

It's so hard to believe this year is half way over with! I have had an equally good and bad year. The good includes selling our house over market value with the second couple that looked at it, getting a newer to me vehicle (my first SUV), and watching another healthy litter of eight puppies go to their forever homes which aided in multiple trips for delivery including Amarillo, Texas. The bad, unfortunately, includes more allergies for me aiding in another complete lifestyle change, losing a grandmother, and a cancer scare with my dad.



Luckily, I remain positive and know I will get through this. I have a lot of great things to look forward to as well. In just a week, I will be headed to North Carolina for the NVON Conference. My husband and I are planning a small weekend getaway as soon as I get back to celebrate his 40th birthday. Then comes the travel in August for District Workshops, the state craft camp (I'll be a first time attendee) in October, a small trip for my 40th birthday in November, and a trip to Pennsylvania Amish Country in early December.

I wanted to tell you all that I thoroughly enjoy your Hattie Claire photos and appreciate all the interest and participation that I've seen. I look forward to seeing what all you do with her for HCE Week and the rest of the year. Keep sending photos. I will look forward to seeing tons of them during HCE Week on our Facebook page.

See you all very soon!



## Extension Educator– Cheri Burcham

Happy Summer!! Hope you are enjoying these warm days and doing something fun! I am just finishing up on the Lessons for Living options for 2025 and should have the official flyer and handout to the IAHCE Board and the HCE contacts in the Extension offices by next week. I think you will really enjoy the lessons we have for you, but remember, you can make a lesson on just about anything and do not need Illinois Extension to permit it or review it (but we are usually happy to provide resources if needed.)

District meetings are coming up and I plan on being at all of them - so I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible! Please take care and have a safe rest of your Summer!



Cheri

# DISTRICT 1 NEWS

## DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR – Karen Davis



Greetings from the very temperate (today, anyway) Midwest summer. It's been a refreshing break from the high heat indexes meteorologists like to brag about. It was shocking to me take the dog outside last night. I had to turn around and put on hoodie before taking our bedtime stroll. Brrr! It was a breezy 65 degrees after the sun went down.

As I continue to attend county annual meetings (many thanks for your invitations!) I continue to be impressed by this: the ladies of HCE know how to put out the welcome mat to old friends and new alike. There are no strangers in this organization, only friends we haven't met, yet. Many creative ladies are building IAHCE one new member at a time. Sometimes they coordinate a special event like hosting a new-comer tea to explain HCE, or, offer a crafting workshop to the public. Or, it may be that the members are always on the lookout for like-minded ladies who desire being part of an organization where they can contribute what they can to improve the health of their communities.

One thing HCE does well is its recognition for a job well done. CVH hours is a start, but you can see what is going on throughout the state when you read about the County of the Year and other awards from the 2024 conference. You can find all those details at IAHCE.com.

We happily brag about our active members and their accomplishments. These are the things worth celebrating. I'm glad to see a resurgence of crafting events. Our area had discontinued our annual Cultural Arts Festival after several years of declining participation. I hope (and others in our county do to) to bring back this uplifting event.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our District Meeting on Tuesday, August 6. We gather at 8:30 at Seneca High School, 307 East Scott Street, Seneca, IL and the opening session begins promptly at 9:00. Please be aware that breakfast goodies will not be available at this venue this year. Bring your own coffee/snacks you may need to start your day. Thanks for understanding.

Until August 6, have a great summer!

*Jo Daviess*

Where does the time go? It seems like I am always waiting for something and boom, it is over!

Summer has been interesting up here. I think we can safely say no drought here! Last night another very nasty storm went through.

All our units participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth at the Stockton 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival. We set up a booth to sell RADA cutlery. And this year, although warm, was not wet as it has been in the past couple of years! Included are some photos of shopper and helpers at the booth. Our thanks to Ways and Means Chair Barb James for organizing this event.



There are several Fairs taking place in the next several weeks. The Jo Daviess County Fair will be held at the fairgrounds in Warren, Illinois. That fair has the oldest Grandstand in the state and has been in existence since 1860! August 1-4.

The Elizabeth Community Fair in Elizabeth, Illinois is the oldest community fair in the state. This fair was held on July 19, 20 and 21, and this fair is preceded by the Jo Daviess County 4-H Fair, also in Elizabeth.

Before we know it, school will be back in session and another year will go on.

Our lessons committee is meeting to set up our schedules for the next year.

Enjoy the summer.

# *Mercer*

The Mercer County Home and Community Education's Annual Meeting was held on May 16th, 2024. Our meeting was held in the Aledo Fire Protection District Community Room. Members present were Cara Ausmus, Marcia Duncan, Judy West, Elene Waters, Carol Guthrie, and Donna Pinger. The program for the evening was presented by Carol Ropp from Bloomington IL. 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 as treasurer and Donna Pinger was elected as CVH chairman and publisher of the newsletter and public relations. Carol Ropp presented our program for the evening. She spoke about their recent trip to Egypt. Her program was most interesting with a slideshow of photos taken of various landmarks and of the ancient ruins of Egypt. She told us much about the geography and history of the nation.



Egypt is 90% desert; however, the majority of the people live along the Nile River that runs from South to North originating from Lake Victoria, roughly, 3500 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is within the Nile's Delta, located on the Sea. The population of Cairo is 9,540,000 people, making it the 12th most populated city of the world. In her program, we learned of The Great Pyramids, (one of the Seven Wonders of the World) Valley of the Kings, and King Tutankhamen became King at the age of 9 years. The Valley of the Kings is relatively a secret many explorers have yet to find. On the Walls of the Ancient Ruins and Ancient Pyramids are hieroglyphics. To put it very simply, Hieroglyphics are etched pictures and symbols of writing carved into the rock walls/ structures, used in the ruins and pyramids.

Each symbol has its own meaning, determining that reference has been a true mystery/challenge over the many centuries of Egypt's history and the exploration from the outside World. Two HCE members worked at Greenmound Cemetery, Keithsburg, on Saturday, May 18th, 2024. Because of the efforts of Lois Retherford and the American Legion Post 121, gravesite markers have been placed in the cemeteries of Mercer County designating the resting place of each and every Veteran who has lived in this county. Lois presented the program for HCE Week in October, 2023, the American Legion Post 121 was also present that evening to share in the planning of this project--the placing of graveside markers in our county. Lois has spent thousands of Volunteer hours, yes thousands, working through the Essley-Noble Historical Society and Museum, researching the lives of every known Veteran from Mercer County. She has located many grave sites, obituaries, and any other important information for each Veteran. Whatever she finds/locates, Lois will update the obituary or any biographical sketch of the Veteran that has been published.

On Saturday, May 18th, 2024, We, the American Legion and Lois Retherford plus volunteers from Keithsburg, placed markers at every Veteran's grave site in Greenmound Cemetery and St. Mary's Cemetery, located adjacent to Greenmound, in Keithsburg, IL. Lois has done this for every cemetery in Mercer County. She still has possibly three more cemeteries in our county, and she will fulfill her goal honoring each and every Veteran of Mercer County that she has researched. In Greenmound alone, we placed 400 markers honoring veterans from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Black Hawk War, The Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korea War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars that have followed. We had at least 18 volunteers as a group together that day from The American Legion and the community at large. On June 22, 2024, Mercer County Home and Community Education worked the pork chop sales stand at Mercer Market, Aledo, IL. Cara Ausmus, Linda Whitney, Marcia Duncan, Bev Gray, Kathy Bizarri, Carol Guthrie, and Donna Pinger gathered together to serve, and sell the chops. A special thank you to Harry Fisher, brother of Cara, for helping us cook the pork chops that day. Thank you to our members—Linda, Marcia, Bev, Carol, and Kathy, who stepped up and worked in the stand that day. Very grateful to ALL!! Most of all HCE wishes to share how much we appreciate the support from the community. We also wish to Thank, Mercer Market, for the providing us with the opportunity to work the stand selling pork chop sandwiches and thereby giving us the opportunity to raise funds that support of our community outreach programs.



## *Rock Island*

Rock Island County members have been busy since the first of the year taking orders for geranium plants. This is our major fundraiser. We have a fantastic grower that has been very reliable and gives us a great deal on the plants. The 4-H Clubs also help us sell the geraniums; and in turn we pay them a percentage for the plants they sell.

Cultural Arts arranged to have a county-wide laptop quilting get together.

Everyone was asked to bring a dish to pass for lunch. We completed ten lap robes that were donated to an area nursing home. We also had a Historical Homes Tour of Deere-Wyman, Butterworth Center and the Atkinson-Peek House. It was a very informative learning about the original Deere family and their history in Rock Island County. One of our members, Ann Brockett-Gallagher, Busy Bees Unit, crocheted a lovely basket weave afghan that she donated to HCE to raffle off at our Annual Meeting. We made \$45 from the raffle.



We had a great Annual Meeting! We celebrated three individuals: Elaine Brown, Pat Stinson (Riverdale Unit), and Sharon Carton (Zuma Unit) for their 50 years of dedication to HCE. They were awarded 50-Year Member Certificates. We also recognized two new members: Mariann McWhinney (Town and Country Unit) and Theresa Stock (Mailbox). Our program was “The Spoon Lady”. Cammie Pohl is Curator/President of the Spoon Museum in Davenport, IA. She brought quite a display of spoons to show and told the history of the spoons as well as some of the spoons in her museum. We are trying something different this year.

We have a Cultural Enrichment Committee and a Newsletter Committee. What a great way to have a broader scope of ideas for Cultural Arts projects and events. We also have a Newsletter Committee, who helps the Public Relations Director get the newsletter in the mail. They also have a variety of talents from typing, running the copier, bulk postal info, etc. to make sure the newsletter goes out in a timely fashion in the event our Public Relations officer would be unavailable. Most of our units do not meet in the summer. It is a time for the various units to get together going out to lunch, and fun outings. Everyone has a great summer, hopefully not too hot and back to business in September.

## *Stephenson*

In March, six members of Stephenson County HCE headed to Effingham for the 100th Annual IAHCE Conference. What a special event! The state board did an excellent job putting together this special conference—and the ballroom decorations were gorgeous! As in years past, we had the cultural enrichment show, silent auction, vendor trade show, and share shops, but we also had the Road to 100 Museum. As this was a special year, we had two nights to wear formal attire, the Awards Banquet “A Night at the Oscars” and the Elsie Mies Banquet. Stephenson County was presented with five educational awards at the Awards Banquet. I think we all had a great time at the 100th IAHCE Conference!



On Saturday, April 24, Stephenson County HCE sponsored a program entitled: “Stephenson County Fair History”. Susie Dvorak, Fair Historian, and a member of HCE and the Stephenson County Fair Board, gave the presentation at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. She brought along her extensive collection of fair memorabilia—some pieces dating back to the 1800’s. Through the use of slides and information she had put together over the years, she told us the history of our county fair. The public was invited to this program. The first Stephenson County Fair was held 170 years ago in October, 1854. Over the decades, there were years when the fair ran into several obstacles which caused it to be canceled. In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, the fair was canceled. The fairgrounds were repurposed as Camp Scott, a training ground for Union soldiers before they were sent to Camp Butler in Springfield. The fair resumed after the war ended. In 1879, the fair had very poor attendance due to flooding rains. This caused the fair to go bankrupt and the result was several years without a fair. A polio epidemic caused the fair to be canceled in 1949. Even with all these setbacks, from war to weather to bankruptcy to epidemics, our county fair continues to the present day. This year, the Stephenson County Fair will run July 23-27, in Freeport. Stephenson County HCE will once again have a designated area for displays and demonstrations.

# DISTRICT 2 NEWS

## DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

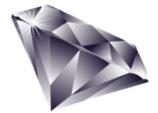
Hope everyone is having a great Summer. It's hard to believe that the year is half over. It seems like the Annual Conference was just last month. What a Great time everyone had. Spring was full of Annual meetings with a Shining group of Ladies, what gems of ideal each bring to IAHCe in the State. Over the past 3 years we have been asked to Grow in HCE, to Inspire others in our lives and communities, to share and live by words of wisdom, and this year to remember the past as Diamonds. Diamonds are Forever as is HCE. What we learned in the past 100 years laid the foundation for the road to the future. Now is the time to remember the past but put what we learned to great use for the future in living and sharing with others in IHCE . Hope to see you all at the August Workshop on the 6th of Aug. in Seneca. There are lots of exciting things to be announced. Enjoy your Summer and Stay cool and Safe.



### *DuPage*

Two years ago we had to cancel our September "Morning in the Park" due to the bees; this year the June cancellation was due to the cicadas. IAHCe President Angela Hicks gave a presentation on Malaysia at our Annual Meeting on April 25th. Many versions of Hattie Claire Everywhere were present, including a special doll brought by District 2 Director, Rita Overacker. On May 14th the lesson for living "Estate Planning" was attended and we had a lively discussion afterwards regarding our experiences with relatives. The Lunch Bunch met at Gong Ho Restaurant in Downers Grove on May 23rd and Tasty Biscuit in Naperville on June 27th. We do plan to meet in July right before our county fair. Barbara Stapleton has volunteered to be our County Sunshine (Birthdays, etc.) representative.- Mylon Fisher

### *Grundy*



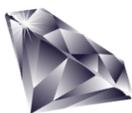
Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. So far its been a wild one!

In May we went to LaSalle's Scottish Tea and learned the art of wheat weaving. Let me tell you it was not easy at first. The woman is renown worldwide for her wheat weaving.

Grundy County has been preparing for the state board coming in August. We will be serving them dinner and enjoying their company the night before district meeting. Angela Hicks came to Grundy for a presentation on her Malaysia trip to ACWW last year. We all enjoyed it. Angela gave a wonderful talk and showed us the articles she brought back, beautiful wraps and trinkets. Hattie Claire came and met another Hattie Claire.

The book club has been busy reading the following: A Thousand Acres, Lady Tan's Circle of Women, Crow Mary, The Dead Romantics, The Hidden One, The Librarianist, and How Y'all Doing?

Monica Evans  
Grundy PR



## *Kane*

Kane County Board continues to meet monthly under the direction of President Naomi Redman. January was busy with tabulating and evaluating the awards materials to be presented at the Annual Meeting. We attempt to follow the guidance of the state in finding outstanding work done in each Unit. This helps in the application for State Awards as well. Lessons from the University started in February. Five members were in attendance at the Annual IAHCE Conference.

We were privileged to have Angela Hicks present her Malaysian Experience slide power point show at the County International program the end of March at the Extension Office. All enjoyed an oriental themed luncheon to complement the Malaysian Day. All Board members contributed to the preparation of Malaysian displays, membership encouragement, pollination and bee materials, table decorations and door prizes. Support for the 4-H program in Kane County came with several baskets prepared for the 4-H Foundation Fundraising Event in April in addition to pork chop dinner ticket sales. We find this a best way to support the 4-H program plus providing plaques for 4-H member champion exhibits for the county fair.

Membership is a main focus this 2024 year. Progress is slow, we have new members but with those finding that the cannot attend meetings anymore our numbers remain about the same. The Annual meeting in May was well planned. Rita Overacker, District 2 Director installed the current officers. Displays of ongoing projects were well done and table decorations encouraged a warm and pleasant atmosphere. Several guests were present - hopefully new membership. Dee Kellen of the Kennedy Unit was named the Kane County HCE Member of the Year. She also was presented with a 55 year membership award.

Lessons from the University are up to date and Units will be using the many minor lessons from the State Directors to compliment their meetings. A sewing workshop with a lesson from Illinois Homemakers Camp was taught by the previous president, Nancy Haire. An evening bag was made from a man's necktie. Participants could bring a tie from a favorite person or choose from a variety that had been donated by a former member. Kane County members look forward to the next county event, the All County Picnic, August 23rd. This also focuses on membership with lots of fun included. Board Officers and Directors have organized a county invitational program. We hope for a lovely, warm (not hot), dry morning and afternoon. October 15th will complete the County programs at the Fun Day and Fine Arts Competition. All are invited to join Kane County at any of these programs.

Submitted by Nancy Haire, Public Relations Director



## *Kankakee*

The ladies in Kankakee have been busy holding an Annual meeting with a visit from State President Angela Hicks and IAHCE Mascot Hattie Clarie Everywhere. The ladies went on field trip to a couple of museums in Momence, IL. and out to Pizza for lunch in June. July plans included a picnic on the third at the Limestone Park Building with bingo and lots of interesting lessons. Lots of interesting lessons are being given. Ladies are planning on attending IAHCE August workshop on August 6th in Seneca. Looking forward to all the exciting things coming in the near future to IAHCE. Have a great Summer.

## *Lake*

Hello from Lake County,

Summer has brought our usual mixed bag of weather. Since our last article, we held our annual business meeting, awarded our HCE-county scholarship, had an interesting lesson on Mental Health, and the International Director started planning International Day being held in August.

On Friday, April 26, we held our 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Meeting. All but one of our units was represented, including Mail Box and MSHCE (Men Supporting HCE). The theme "Diamonds are Forever and so is HCE" was used to decorate name tags, members, and our auditorium. Rita Overacker, IAHCE's District 2 Director, installed the 2024/2025 Lake County Board shown below.



**Left to Right: Jane Ellen Keroson (International Director), Sandy Henke (Treasurer), Candace Keegan (Secretary), Barb Rowland (Vice President), and Angela Hicks (President)**

At the Annual Business Meeting, our county members were introduced to Hattie Claire Everywhere. IAHCE President Angela Hicks has been escorting Hattie around the state when other IL counties invite Angela to speak at their meetings.

Although our scholarship is awarded in April, we were not able meet the award winner until our June board meeting. We are pleased to announce Madison Twarling as the recipient of the 2024 Helen Volk Johnson Scholarship. Madison graduated from high school this year and is a member of the Millburn Clovers 4-H Club. She has won the club awards as Club Historian (2020-21), Treasurer (2021-22), and Vice President (2022-23). She is attending University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with plans to go into the healthcare field.

**Picture Below: Angela Hicks and Sandy Henke present the Scholarship Award to Madison Twarling**



Our Vice President Barb Rowland, Programs and Membership, compiled the information on Mental Health received at this year's State Conference. She had the article on Mental Health Awareness delivered to our members in the newsletter. She will distribute the remaining articles at our International and Cultural Enrichment days. She arranged for an in-person program on May 23 with Mr. Danny Ross as the speaker. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Illinois who works with both adults, 18 years and older, and youth, ages 8 to 17 years. Barb also collected questions from our members that provided a wide range of topics for Mr. Ross to discuss. It was an excellent program.

**Picture on the Right: Danny Ross, Speaking at our Mental Health Awareness Program**

Our International Director, Jane Ellen Keroson, is meeting with her committee to prepare for International Day, August 23. Our speaker on Malaysia is President Angela Hicks who travelled there for the 2023 ACWW Triennial Conference. I predict a great time. Stay well and be safe until next time.

*Candace Keegan, Newsletter Editor for LCAHCE*



## *Livingston*

Well hello H.C.E. from the Livingston County units. Where has the time gone? Summer will be gone and we will be starting a New Year. My mom had always said when you get older the time flies. I do believe her now for I am a little bit wiser. On January of 2024 we had one of our board meetings and we needed to figure out who was going to be our next President. February no takers for the seat. March came, and on the 12th several ladies went to the Effingham I.A.H.C.E. Conference. We celebrated 100 Years Wo Hoo, great job Ladies they had a great time. Next was our Super Saturday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Bloomington Farm Bureau office. The group that went said it was very interesting lessons and a great day. April is the Annual Meeting for Livingston County Units. We met at the family kitchen in Pontiac for breakfast on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. There were 26 members present. Our President, Angela Hicks came and gave a very enlightening speech. Two young ladies from the Pontiac Humane Society came and told us about their facility.

Thank-you ladies for love and devotion to this society. Next, we had our 50 years plus members recognition. Rita Schaffer has been a H.C.E. member for 73 years. Congratulations and great job. We handed out the volunteer hour awards for the year and honored the members that had passed. The drum roll came to vote, if we would still be a unit or close because we still did not have a Board President. Meri Knapp saved the day by stepping up to the plate. She volunteered to take over as the Board President of all of the Livingstons County Units. Going off the Board after many years was President, Arlene Martell, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sandi Kimpling. Linda DeRosa has taken over 2nd vice President, Wendy Harrington took over the Cultural Enrichment. We are working on the fair that will take place July 17-20 2024. Well, I think this is a wrap up for what we have been doing. Pray for some rain, stay cool and enjoy the rest of the summer.

God Bless. Public Relations /CVH. Lucille Wiechmann Livingston County.

# McLean

Spring and early summer have found McLean County HCE members very active! Local leaders shared with units “My Journey through Macular Degeneration” in April and “A Taste of Tradition – Heritage Cooking” in May. Minor lessons on Egypt each month included study of Egyptian pyramids and tourist attractions. June found each unit celebrating the program years’ end individually with tours and luncheons in selected spots.

The Community Service Days meet each month and will continue to work on items for breast cancer patients such as breast pads and seat belt covers/port pillows. The Read and Share group met to discuss the books Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer and The Spanish Daughter by Loren Hughes.

Cultural Enrichment programs started off in April with dinner at Tony’s Diner in Bloomington, followed by a Glenn Miller Orchestra performance at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts. In May there was lunch at Garden of Paradise in Bloomington and a tour of Ewing Manor where a special event “Hazle’s Closet” provided a unique look into the closet of Hazel Buck Ewing. June found members and guests visiting Ropp’s Jersey Cheese Farm followed by lunch at Pizza Ranch.

Our 106<sup>th</sup> HCE Annual Meeting occurred on July 9<sup>th</sup> along with the Cultural Enrichment and Fine Arts Show at Christ Lutheran Church in Normal. Elizabeth Hageman of the Alzheimer’s Association addressed the audience, and HCE officers were installed for the 2024-2025 year.

The McLean County Fair was July 24<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds and Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> McLean County HCE hosted and sponsored the “ Young at Heart Day,” full of entertainment, vendors serving seniors, door prizes, food, and beverages, which was enjoyed by senior citizens.

Finally, HCE continues to raise money for the HCE scholarship fund for 4-H Members, and other community service projects by having bake sales at the Old Rugged Barn in May and the Bloomington Saturday --- Market on the Square, June 29<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to bake sales at Downs Village Market Wednesday August 21<sup>st</sup> and the ever-rewarding Attic Treasures and Bake Sale event will be held at the Interstate Center in Bloomington in the Mini-Expo Building on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> , 8am-2pm. Come shop this fantastic sale.

For 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!



# Will

Here in the Midwest, our weather and temps sure vary day by day. It may be 100 one day, but wait a day or two, and the temps are in the 70's. The past two months, I visited both Egypt and the Southwest National Parks in Utah and Arizona, where it was 95 - 108<sup>0</sup> each day. They can say it is dry heat, but it is still hot. However, here, at 89 with high humidity in Joliet, it is unbearable to be outdoors. I guess we really have to be thankful for the nice days, even if they are few.

The Will County HCE had a wonderful Annual Meeting in May. President **Gail Shaw** introduced guest, Rita Overacker, our District Director. Our Board Secretary, Mary Cheney resigned, but **Marcia Smith**, a relatively new member stepped up to take her place.

As part of our community service, we added another project. **Elaine Czajkowski**, Family/Community Issues Chair, announced the WCHCE will be collecting snack items for the **Wilmington Coalition for Healthy Communities**, which is involved with eliminating substance abuse (smoking and drugs) in students and young adults. This agency has been so kind to print our 8-10 page, full-color, newsletter three times per year. **Andrea Zoelle**, International Chair, presented a short overview of our new focus country, Malaysia. She also gave a summary of the IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham, which she attended in March.

After the regular business meeting, our guest speaker, Illinois Extension Service Master Gardener, Nancy Kuhajda spoke to members about "Beautiful and Bountiful Gardens." Nancy also included a discussion of the pesty cicadas, which have just recently ended their life cycles after causing deafening screams, damage to trees, and a disruption to life because of the numbers flying and crawling about everywhere. She also gave the members tips as to the variety of shrubs and trees that would be the most advantageous to plant. Nancy has presented many times to our group, and her wit and knowledge make our members ask her back again and again.

After a wonderful luncheon, catered by Niko's in Joliet, the members shared artifacts that members possessed. Depression glass, jewelry, silver beverage sets, and old appliances were displayed. Members presented information of the item and recounted personal recollections using the item or used by an ancestor. This was the second time we did this antique sharing, and the attending members very much enjoyed this. It was a nice end to a great day.

On July 9th, our Vice President, Carolyn Yoemans, is organizing another Bunco Party. We hold three of these per year and urge members to bring friends that may become potential members. Members bring their lunches, and the Board provides dessert and drinks. Prizes are either cash or gift certificates to various restaurants. It is a very enjoyable time for all. We will have our third Bunco Party on September 10th.

The Crystal Unit is creating a banner for the WCHCE. Judy Maier, a member of the Crystal Unit is a talented artist/quilter, and she is getting the whole Unit involved in this project. Hopefully, next year, it can be displayed at the IAHCE Annual Conference.

Wishing everyone a great summer! Mary Barrett, Publicity and Newsletter Chairman



# DISTRICT 3 NEWS

## DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill

It's hard to believe that the year is half over already! I hope your summer is going well and you are finding time to visit with friends and family and maybe even share some ice cream.

We recently had our summer mini district meeting in Decatur. It was a fun time and I hope you got some ideas to take back and share with your counties. Remember to think about changes you may want for the November 6 mini meeting. Be sure to share your ideas with me.

I hope to see many of you at the August 7 District Meeting in Springfield. The state board has LOTS of essential information to share. You will want to be there!

As I've visited many of your counties this year, it has been fun to see you celebrating the Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE theme, as well as seeing your Hattie Claire creativity. Such fun!

“True friends are like diamonds – bright, beautiful, valuable, and always in style.” ~ Nicole Richie

### *Champaign*

On April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, we held our Annual Spring Craft and Plant Sale at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building. There were 18 vendors and 7 HCE members were vendors and had beautiful handcrafted items for sale. The plants that were sold were brought in by our HCE members and the plants brought in the most money, but close behind was our bake sale. Also to promote HCE and members, we had a Make It and Take It booth for children and adults. At the booth they decorated a flower pot and planted seeds of flowers. Flyers and information about HCE was on display and members present for questions.

Our May Lesson for Living was “History of the Idea Garden” presented by a Master Gardener from the Champaign County Extension Unit. The Garden is located on the University of Illinois Arboretum in Urbana. Master Gardens work in Committee to design, plant and maintain the Garden. Members from our units attended the lesson and then presented the lesson at their monthly unit meetings.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we had Game Day which is well attended and enjoyed by all. Sandwiches and soup were served. At the end of the day, members played card bingo which is a popular game at the event.

June 26<sup>th</sup>, we held our Picnic and Ice Cream Social at the Lake of the Wood in Mahomet, IL. The day was very hot, but there was a nice breeze that made it enjoyable comfortable day. We had a lot of delicious food and delicious ice cream with many choices of toppings.

Our Units continue to make tray favors for the residents of the Illini Heritage Rehab & Health Care. Units were assigned special holidays during year to make favors for the 50 residents. Our members continue to meet regularly to sew weighted blankets for autistic children in Champaign County. This year CCHCE is offering a \$1,000.00 Scholarship for members, and their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces/nephew and for Champaign County 4-H members. Our book club meets monthly and is well attended. Most of our units meet during the summer for lunch. One unit has gone to Arthur, IL for an Amish Dinner and will be attending the Kickapoo Tea Room in Downs, IL for lunch.

Aging Services of Champaign County held a Summer Senior Event on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the new Champaign Park Districts Martens Center in Champaign, IL. The event was for all Adults 55+ and those who have an older adult in their life. There were 50 resources that had a booth. CCHCE was invited to have a booth to promote the mission our organization. We had a display about HCE and several people signed forms stating that they are interested in more information about HCE.



Our next big event is our Annual Indoor Garage Sale on July 19th and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building. This is an annual fundraiser. We will also have a bake sale and variety of plants for sale. We welcome all HCE members and the public to attend any of our events.

Please check our website for information on CCHCE events and meetings.

[www.champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com](http://www.champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com)

Carol Froeschl, CCHCE PR Chairman



Above: Carol Froeschl and Melissa Chitwood at booth for Summer Senior Event

Left: Picnic and Ice Cream Social with Hattie Claire



## DeWitt

DeWitt county's main news is that we are moving our IAHCE office, our new address will be 1160 Illinois Rt 54, Suite B, Clinton Ill 61727. We are not there yet so we have had two unit meetings at the library and two board meetings in homes! In May we had a representative from the First National Bank give us a very informative talk on Financial Fraud and Scams. A lot of us could relate to this as we had all received texts or scam phone calls! Emmy Bates, our CVH Chairman passed out the certificates of recognition received at the State Conference for 500 Certified Hours. Several of our members received a certificate. June 3rd. Several of us went to Monticello for our Tri County Board meeting, Piatt County hosted the meeting. We had a good meeting and a delicious lunch! On June 6th. Linda Long and Alice Grooms met at the library to help with a 4-H project "Teaching to play card games". They had a great time although Linda and Alice were supposed to teach the kids some old card games and they said the kids ended up teaching them! In June we had a very informative meeting on bats! Cassandra Meyen gave a very good program, changed some people's minds about bats!. Sally Dennis from Macon County came and joined us for this meeting! Five of us went to the Mini Spring Meeting on June 26 at Macon County Extension office. We took our Hattie Claire Everywhere with us! Everyone have a safe and happy summer

Linda Riva



## *Edgar*

We celebrated our 87th Annual Meeting of the DeWitt County and Community Education Association on November 21, 2023 at the U of I Extension Office. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance and reciting the Homemaker's Aim. Eleven members and two guests were in attendance. Karen Cahill, IAHC District 3 Director was recognized and introduced. Karen filled us in on news of the upcoming conference in Effingham. The slate of the 2024 officers was presented. Co-Presidents, Linda Long and Linda Riva; 1st Vice President, Nancy Sprague; 2nd Vice President, Betty Clark; Co-Secretaries, Linda Charlett and Sonna Hoke; Treasurer, Betty Clark; Community Outreach, Doris Dash; International, Alice Grooms; and Volunteer Hours, Emmy Bates. The slate of officers was accepted and approved. Karen installed our officers for 2024. Joey Long with the DeWitt County Museum was introduced. Joey told us about the invention and the history of the "Ruger Maps". She distributed the Ruger map of Clinton, IL in 1877.

We held our Christmas party at the LaTeaDa Tearoom here in Clinton on December 19th. We had eleven members present. Linda Long knitted small stockings for everyone as a favor. On December 14th, a surprise retirement party was given for Diana Tibbs, our DeWitt County Extension secretary of 30 years. Diana was a big help to us and she will be missed.

In February, we had the DeWitt county sheriff come and speak to us on scams and fraud. It was a very interesting program and we learned about some other things happening in our county. We discussed the conference in March and made our final plans. We joined Piatt and Macon in purchasing a layout for the conference book. Also in February, our members had been taking up a collection of hats and gloves. Alice Grooms and Linda Riva distributed these to two of our elementary schools. As mild as the weather has been, we figured the teachers could keep them until they are needed.

On March 12, five of us attended the conference in Effingham, celebrating 100 years! Those attending were, Linda Long, Sonna Hoke, Linda Charlett, Linda Riva, and Alice Grooms. Everyone had a great time and brought back a lot of information. The conference was a huge success and the entertainment was wonderful!

On March 19, we had Unit 17 Nutrition and Wellness Educator, Caitlin Mellendorf, speak to us on cheeses. The hostess, Nancy Sprague, had three types of cheese for us to sample. They were all good!

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and a wonderful spring!

Linda Riva



## *Macon*

Our members enjoyed a presentation by Therese Kincaid, who gave a historical program about the Little Theatre in Sullivan, Illinois. Chef Tucker from the Richland Community School Culinary Department took the members on a tour of their kitchen. He also served them a special rice dish. It was delicious. Karen Cahill, our District Three Director had an outstanding mini-district meeting on Wednesday, June 26, at the Macon County Extension Office. The meeting was well attended. She gave us an update of upcoming events that we would like to attend. We broke up into small groups to discuss membership ideas, special activities, fundraising and cultural enrichment. The next mini-district meeting will be Wednesday, November 6.

Upcoming events will be: an updated from Nicole Bateman from the Decatur Economic Development Corporation on July 16 about the new business developments in the Decatur area; program planning; a bus field trip to Eureka and Washington to visit the Ronald Reagan Museum and an antique store in August; the IAHC District Workshop in Springfield in August, International Day on September 18, and HCE Week in October.

HCE Week will feature Don Chamberlain, a Make-It– Take-It Craft Day, and a board games and snack day. Of course, we have the fall meeting in October too. It will be a busy time for our Macon County group! We have increased the number of sewing days this year. Many of our members participate and they have donated many more pillowcases and hearts for the various support agencies, hospitals, and the Ronald McDonald house in Springfield. We also persist to collect the pop tabs.

We continue to invite new persons to our wonderful organization. We encourage our members to invite relatives, neighbors, and friends to see what HCE is all about. We have planned some wonderful programs.

Linda Austin, Public Relations



## *Tazewell*

Greetings from Tazewell County! This update is my first one for Tazewell County as the new Public Relations Director, so bear with me as I report for the first time.

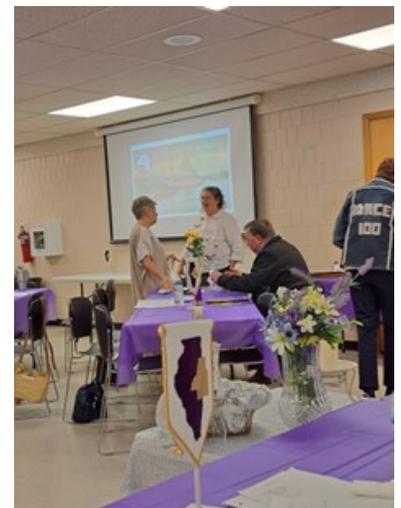
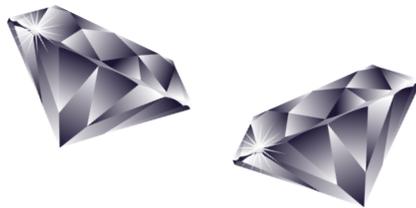
Our annual meeting was held on Monday, May 6th, 2024. We had over 30 ladies attend. We were honored to have IAHCE President, Angela Hicks; and District 3 Director, Karen Cahill attend as special guests. We heard a message from our Extension Unit Leader, Earl Allen, held our annual business meeting, presented awards, and installed our board. However, the highlight of the meeting was the presentation from Angela Hicks on the 2023 ACWW 30th Triennial World Conference in Malaysia last May. She took us through the trip from her flights from the U.S. with other attendees from IAHCE, her various conference sessions, the meals, meeting with the queen, the formal dinner at the palace, the mock wedding, and so much more. She also shared observations about the IAHCE 100th Anniversary Annual Conference in March 2024. Last, but not least, the ladies from East Peoria gave each of our 8 units a handcrafted honeybee bank, encouraging them to collect 'honey money' for the NVON BEE-CAUSE.

We are finalizing our lessons for 2024-25 and planning for TerrificTuesday. Thinking outside the box, we have come up with a couple unique lessons this year. Our ladies from Mop and Glo (Green Valley) and Groveland took a trip to Allerton Park to see the peonies on May 23rd. They also gathered information to create a lesson on Allerton Park. We also reached out to Tazewell County TRIAD for a lesson on Current Cyber, Mail, & Phone Scams, which will be presented on Terrific Tuesday.

Of course, it is that time of year to start preparing for the 4-H Fair and the HCE food stand. Our 4-H fair is from July 29th through July 31st. We are planning our menu and gearing up to feed our 4-Hers and their families.

Until next time...

Denise Jatho, Public Relations Director



On May 21, 2024, the annual VCHCE WWW event took place at 1224 E. Voorhees in Danville. After registering at “HCE Camp”, everyone moved to the craft table. There was lacing and a supply of various craft beads for making necklaces with our names on them.

Donations toward Pennies for Projects amounted to \$20.87.

Mary and Diane furnished a generous lunch of tasty sandwiches, fruit, chips, veggies & dip, and cookies. Following lunch, everyone recited a collection of humorous “Sage Sayings for Seniors.” Next, we were introduced to face card bingo and enjoyed receiving some very nice prizes. It was a relaxing and fun day.

Attendance:

<u>Catlin Unit</u>	<u>Bismarck Unit</u>	<u>Mailbox Members</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Diane Reddy	Anna Marie Chrisman	Catherine Haun	Denea Warrick
Linda Ingram	Eleanor White	Carol Davis	(Diane’s sister)
Jo Anne Gerard	Ruth Anne Metz		



Nancy Dolan

Other events in the future are, Annual Meeting, July 2<sup>nd</sup>; Annual Hobo Style Soup Picnic, Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>; and International Meeting, Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. If interested in attending any of the events please contact Eleanor White 217-260-5106 Pres/Sec. [eleanor.white@aol.com](mailto:eleanor.white@aol.com) or Diane Reddy 217-260-5593 PR/CVHours [jdreddy311@gmail.com](mailto:jdreddy311@gmail.com). If emailing a message please use HCE as a heading. All are welcome to attend any of our meetings and events.

Diane Reddy, PR/CVH and VC HCE

## DISTRICT 4 NEWS

### DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards



District 4, I hope you are having an enjoyable, wonderful summer.

We had a great Mini Meeting on Tuesday, June 25th. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. Cheri Burcham, IAHCE / University of Illinois Extension Liaison presented *Navigating Changes as we Age* program. Thank you to Fayette County for everything they did and to each county that attended for their wonderful salad. 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 is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> with registration starting at 11:30 a.m. and meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia. Mark your calendars: Come, celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, March 11 – 13, 2025 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Carol Harms, Conference Chair and Emily McDowell, Conference Co-Chair are working diligently on the Conference preparations.

County Presidents, shortly after December 1<sup>st</sup>, be on the lookout for the President’s Packet that will have the March 2025 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference information in it. Please share this information with your Board and membership. Or watch for the pullout in the December 2024 Newsletter or online at the [iahce.org](http://iahce.org) website after December.

See you at the August 2024 District 4 & 5 Workshops,  
Donna Richards, District 4 Director

# Bond

Greetings from Bond County HCE. It has been almost two years since BCHCE has contributed to the state newsletter, and a lot has changed since we last chimed in. While our membership has fluctuated, enthusiasm for HCE has remained high and we've added a 5<sup>th</sup> unit to the county. We left behind a 60+ year-old tradition of welcoming folks to our Food Stand at The Bond County Fair and replaced it with both a Spring Cookout and a Fall Pie & Bake Sale, which match well with our current membership and, together, exceed the Food Stand's profit.

Once again, we enjoyed great success with our Spring Cookout at The Milk House. Due to inclement weather, Mike Turley invited us to hold the cookout inside his store, which was a great blessing as it was a blustery and misty day. Even though we were less visible inside and three of our major supporters were unable to order from us this year, we still enjoyed a hefty profit of \$1,992 – enough to cover our yearly scholarships. We're so very thankful that Bond County citizens are always ready to support local students! Along with his crew, BCHCE member, Wes Pourchot, manned the grill, and all other BCHCE members provided baked goods in to-go size servings to make sure all customers enjoyed an excellent meal.

In May, we awarded four \$500 scholarships to two Bond Co. high school seniors and two adult learners for the upcoming school year. Although our scholarships are open to ALL Bond County residents, this year's top scorers happen to all be HCE Legacy students.

Bond Co. High School recipients are Micah Greenwood (BCCU1 grad – granddaughter of Beverly Greenwood) and Ellie Schaufelberger (BCCU2 grad – great-granddaughter & great-niece of three former BCHCE members and granddaughter of Wayne County HCE member, Dixie Woods).

Adult Learner recipients are Katie Pepler (Greenville University Junior, majoring in Biology & Chemistry – granddaughter of Penny Wait; Katie's great-grandmother was also a BCHCE member) and Brooke Tompkins (Grand Canyon University Junior majoring in Biology – daughter of Tina Tompkins and granddaughter of Janice Tompkins).

BCHCE hosted 34 members and 5 guests at our 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on July 16. IAHCE 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Mary Johnson, attended to congratulate us on being "80 years strong!" (our 2024 theme) and encourage us to work as a team to continue the legacy forged by so many great members before us. Donna Richards installed the 2024-25 BCHCE Board (see below), commending each officer as she accepted the challenge to help BCHCE thrive. Following the meeting, Cheralee Vohlken of Jo Mama's, who also catered our meal (delicious!!), presented an excellent lesson on Small Batch Freezer Cooking, providing timely tips to get healthy meals on the table quickly and stress-free.



## Left to Right

**Front: Patty Sutton** (Cultural Enrichment & International), **Carole Bohle** (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), **Carol Boatright** (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), **Bev Greenwood** (CVH), **Carol Lingley** (4-H & Youth), **Donna Richards** (D4 Director)

**Back: Sharon Fitzgerald** (President), **Sherri Beckham** (Secretary), **Penny Wait** (Treasurer), **Janice Tompkins** (Family Living & Community Outreach)

# Clinton

Clinton County Home Community and Education (HCE) has been busy in April and May with numerous activities taking their "Hattie Clair Everywhere," their organization version of "Flat Stanley". Our annual bus trip was to Casey, IL to "see the big things". This town has become a tourist destination by creating large things outside their businesses with something depicting their store. They now hold around seven world records for big things like a rocking chair, car key, wind chime, and bird cage.



Our next activity was sewing day making fleece receiving blankets for Clinton County newborn babies born around certain holidays at St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese. A label is sewn on each blanket saying; "Made with love by Clinton County Homemakers".

A HCE unit also held a meeting at the two assisted living places in Breese for our past members who now reside there. A program on "Planting a Flower Container" was held at Whispering Pines with Dian Langenhorst, a master gardener doing a presentation on this. Members were able to plant their own container afterwards. Following this presentation HCE then volunteered to plant for Whispering Pines numerous Lily of the Valley plants that someone had donated to them around their new retaining wall, giving HCE some community volunteer hours.



# Crawford

Each fall the Crawford County HCE Units donate needed items to the Heritage Home for Veterans in Hutsonville, Illinois. These members of the Board are loading up boxes that will be delivered to Hutsonville. Norma Thompson, Family Life chairwoman, organized a gift bag event to benefit women getting mammograms at Crawford Memorial Hospital during breast cancer awareness month. Each bag contained snacks and a bottle of water. All Crawford County HCE Units donated items for the gift bags.

The Robinson Nightengales HCE Unit joined the Solar Eclipse festivities by handing out homemade "moon pies". They made 240 "moon pies" to be given away to people enjoying the eclipse at South Cross Street in Robinson, Illinois. Martha Holt, International Chairwoman, presented a very informative program about the culture, customs, and resources of Malaysia. Her lovely display of items made the lesson even more interesting. She had planned a delicious luncheon of Malaysian cuisine served to guests seated at tables decorated with a beach theme.



# Effingham

This year is a bad year for ticks. Therea Steckler, Educator in Agriculture, University of Illinois, was the guest speaker for a county-wide program on about ticks. She pointed out that ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. **It is a good idea to stay away from** those wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails. A person can even get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood. To remove one that if you do get one on you:

1. Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers: Grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure avoiding twisting or jerking the tick, as this can cause its head or mouth to break off and remain in your skin.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

Don't crush a tick with your fingers.

## Ticks

Remember that ticks can transfer disease-causing organisms, so it's important to remove them promptly and properly. Always be cautious and seek medical advice if you experience any symptoms after a tick bite.

## Canning Photo

A "Canning Apple Pie Filling and Canning Tips" program was presented by Mary Liz Wright, U of I Educator. She showed how to make the apple pie filling and in a hot water canning process.



While waiting for the water to come to a boil and canning time to start, Mary Liz gave a very informative presentation on when to use pressure canner versus a hot water canning process; what foods can or cannot be canned; various types of jars and what kind to use; different kinds of canning flats and rings; how long foods last after being canned; different styles of pressure canners and hot water canners. She then gave the canned jars of apple pie filling as door prizes. Cookies made with apple pie filling were served. Lots of information and lots of ideas from beginning to end.

## Photo Dr. Naam international dinner speaker

Dr Naam always holds an audience's attention in his presentations and the 2024 International luncheon was just another example. He shared his story of moving to the US and the customs of his home country. A slide presentation, with humor added, made us all want to plan a trip to Egypt.



# Fayette

Hello Everyone from Fayette County HCE! Fayette County HCE started the year out with helping the Fayette County Fair Ladies Building by purchasing a refrigerator to be used for projects needing a cooler. In February we helped pack goody bags for the state conference. March was State Conference month "Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE" (WooHoo!!) Fayette County won several awards this year (Way to go Everyone for all your hard work!). April was Heritage Skills Weekend scheduled for April 12-14, which was a great success. It was a weekend where you could stay in the cabins at Rehoboth Baptist Church Camp. We learned to make homemade noodles, cooking a biscuit on a stick over a fire, cooking in a dutch oven over a fire (veggie soup) and with hot coals (biscuits), sourdough (making tortillas and peanut butter cookies), macrame keychain, companion planting, herbal medicine (making our own tea blend), soap making, candle making, and tinctures/salves. The Units of the county furnished the meals for the weekend.



A great time was had by all and looking forward to doing it again. In May we had a county wide lesson - Eating for Eye Health. In June was our Get Acquainted Day. The day started with a brunch and ended with an Auction (lots of treasures). With the decorations in Red, White and Blue! Plus a photo booth with lots of items to pose with. In July we are planning Canning Classes - 2 classes in July and 2 in August. Fayette County HCE has agreed to do breakfast for Central Illinois Truckers Convoy for Make-A-Wish in August. September 12th is our International Event on Malaysia with our speaker being Angela Hicks (State President). We are planning a Membership Tea Party sometime in September or October!!! October being HCE Week. All those exciting things that will be going on that week. November is the month of Thanksgiving and we have so much to be thankful for! December bringing the year to an end and celebrating our Savior's Birth. Many blessings to each of you!

## *Macoupin*

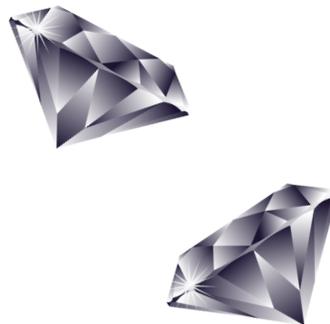
The landscaping photos are from a garden walk given to the Board recently and also to her individual unit. Carol Meyer is the secretary for the Macoupin County Board as well as a Master Gardener. Her home is lovely. The pictures of the back of the vehicles with pet supplies are the Macoupin County Board members getting ready to distribute to two animal control places in the county; Benld Adopt-a-pet and Macoupin County Animal Control. All units in the county contributed as this was chosen as our country project. We had a good turnout and will continue to collect until November to finish off the project. The Lady Bug planters were this month's Cultural Arts project and they turned out so cute.

Vicki Laughlin is Cultural Arts Director and does a great job. All of our units met monthly with the exception of the Modelite unit and those four gals go to the lesson monthly to meet and then out to lunch. I think it is a great way to have a meeting. Go Modelite!



## *Madison*

Madison County has had a busy spring. We had our annual meeting in April where we elected three new officers. Our county trip took place in May. We went to Arthur, Illinois where we got to eat in an Amish home, do some shopping, tour a greenhouse, and shop at Beechy's. We had an all women's trivia on July 13th with ten tables. Sue Busler was our emcee. We have had numerous craft classes and "cork clubs". The cork club is where we learn about wine, sample wine, and then make a craft with wine corks. This has been gaining popularity in our county and we are looking forward to continue this club for the rest of this year. Fall will bring our fall craft workshop on August 3rd, our International Night on October 7th, a Children's tea in August, and a Halloween themed craft workshop in October. Our annual Christmas in November fundraiser will be held November 7th and our holiday craft workshop will be November 9th. We are also getting plans underway for our craft camp, February 28th-March 2nd, 2025. The theme is Cooking Up Some Kitchen Crafts and all crafts will be kitchen related. Keep watch on our Facebook page for all of the details or email at emhohl@gmail.com to be put on our informational list for when the details come out. Hope to see you at our District Workshops!



# DISTRICT 5 NEWS

## DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms

Was the 2024 100<sup>th</sup> annual conference the best time ever or what? Melissa Chitwood had wonderful ideas and carried them out so well. I was lucky to work with her because I learned a lot to help me prepare for the 2025 conference. **I can't wait** to share my theme and initial plans at the August workshops. You should have made your reservation by now, and I am looking forward to seeing members from all over the state. Because I am introducing the conference theme, I get to travel to the District 1 & 2 and District 3 workshops besides our own 4 & 5 workshop. I am so excited to see what goes on in the other districts.



It has been a very busy time since the March Conference! I appreciated the invitations to county annual meetings, and I have been to several: Johnson, Perry, White, Union, Massac, Hamilton, and Jackson counties. I also visited the new Pulaski/Alexander board and I spoke for the Mother's Day Tea in Johnson County. I attended the State Board meeting in June at Three Pines in Petersburg, and I led the District 5 mini-district meeting June 27 at the Pinckneyville Community Center in Perry County. It was exciting to have so many people there, and it was wonderful to share updates from the state board meeting and get them geared up for the August workshop. Jane Chapman gave a lesson on Food Safety and Avoiding Food Waste, and it was very interesting. I also attended the NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network) Conference in Asheville, NC in July. There were some great workshops and events, including a tour of the Biltmore Mansion. I could write a whole article about that week!

The August District 4/5 Workshop is coming up quickly - Thursday, August 8, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham. We will be having our usual state board updates, officer/director breakout sessions, and district meetings, **but don't think it will be the "same old same old."** There is ALWAYS new information you need to know. President Angela Hicks will have some important news to share with you, and you will hear the announcements of next year's 101<sup>st</sup> conference theme and the new international country of study.

### Reminders:

Keep track of those volunteer hours, both for HCE and other volunteer opportunities. Start writing down those hours now if you are not already in the habit of doing so.

Think about a deserving member in your county to nominate for Member of the Year. 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-presidents should have the nomination form (or get it from the website), and the deadline is October 1. District 5 had no nominations last year, so we need to step up!

Make plans to attend the March 2025 annual conference! People had such a great time this year, and I want to keep up the momentum. It will be a great party and I expect a big turnout from our district.

I hope you enjoy what's left of the summer and Stay Positive! You have been blessed to be part of a great organization of caring women and men who do great things for their communities. Share your smile and your talents!

Carol Harms, District 5 Director



## *Hamilton*

The Hamilton County HCE hosted their Annual Day on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Red Barn in Mcleansboro, IL. Lunch was furnished by the board members and included Poppysseed Chicken casserole, salad and rolls. Carol Harms, District 5 Director, was our special guest and assisted with the induction of Board officers. Attendees enjoyed making a special craft, playing Bingo and learning about diamonds. New officers were inducted onto the Board and awards were handed out honoring years of membership. It was a great day celebrating HCE!

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Annual Picnic was held at Dolan Lake. All HCE members and their families were invited to attend. White County HCE members were also invited to join us. It was a beautiful day to spend together with family and friends. Members brought food to share, including hot dogs, chips and drinks. Becky Belcher had a fun game for everyone to play. Then the group played Bingo, and everyone won some fabulous prizes to take home!

## *Jackson*

2024 has been busy. Jackson County has had a lesson/open house at a new ambulance service to acquaint members with the service and education of these dedicated service members in our community. What a fun time that was looking at all of the new equipment and emergency vehicles.

In April, we attended a women's art show at the Sharpe Museum at Southern Illinois University. We got to see several art exhibitions that day. Members met for lunch afterward,

In May we had a lesson with canning and preservation of foods with Kris Juelfs. We learned about new guidelines and members had many questions. Our most seasoned canning/garden members attended along with people who were new to canning.

Brenda Jones, Marie Samuels, Kendra Evans, Jane McLaughlin, Brenda Davis, Cathy Ziegler and Jean Conrod attended the IACHE Conference this past March for the IACHE 100-year celebration. What a great time was had by everyone.

We are now preparing for our Annual meeting in July with several members of the IAHCE Board attending. We will hear from NVON Chairperson Jane Chapman and a local jeweler will discuss the history of diamonds in our country. It will be a great celebration. Happy 100 years IAHCE!

We continue to work with our Volunteer Endeavor at the Prairie Assisted Living Program. The new Program has been named Healthy Community Empowerment (HCE) and we hope to gather volunteers to assist in this endeavor throughout the coming years.

In August we have asked the Jackson County Health Department to present a program on staying healthy in these times. The speaker will advise us on cleaning in the home and news on when vaccines become available. We will be preparing our International Program in October during HCE week. We will have a Malaysian Student from SIU speaking with us.

Jackson County HCE continues to carry on. We obtained new members in January. These members were able to attend several programs/lessons. They were very excited to see what their new membership afforded them in Jackson County. We continue to strive for new members and to increase our coverage in Jackson County.

We hope to finish the year with even more new programs and look forward to 2025.



# Jefferson

April found our group on the way to the QAS Quilt Show in Paducah Kentucky, and some ladies from another county joined us. Hattie Clair attended and enjoyed the Butterfly quilt. Field Unit enjoyed an old-time craft. Making May baskets, children used to make and hang on neighbor's doors. April also we awarded two scholarships; one to Lydia Donoho, granddaughter of Imogene Lamczyk, and another to Brynlee Thomason. May also found us with our Flower sales. Hattie Claire travel along to pick them up. May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Vernon Airport we had a Disaster Preparedness Lesson. This was the day of the bad storms in Southern Illinois. Timely lesson. Several from the community attended. Hattie was there, too.

Hattie Claire visited the Largest and maybe oldest Dog wood in Illinois just down the road from Sarah Mae Waite. Hattie Claire helped deliver quilts to the Amy Center, for abused Children, along with many toys, sock hats and two suitcases, all made and furnished by members. Hattie Claire Attended church with four of our members. Donations was made to Youth Build ( young adults learn a trade and obtain their GED) , guess what Hattie Claire was there.

Hattie Claire has went along delivering Meals on Wheels, Holy Sews (making layettes for infants that didn't make it) Family life Center for the homeless, and even the Food Pantry. She is helping to spread how good HCE is. Encourging others to join us and help us in community efforts. June 18<sup>th</sup> Fun Day at the Park , Cultural Enrichment activity by Sarah Mae Waite and Kelley Deichman to intoude to the public, games, fun and food. Hattie Claire was right there. Twenty five members and guests enjoyed the evening.



# Massac

We were blessed to have 30 people attend the annual meeting. Thank you to the Town & Country Unit for setting up for and planning the day. The program was about the spiritual meaning of diamonds and how to identify the quality and care of diamonds. The program was presented by Carroll Duncan and Norma Korte. Members were recognized for volunteering 500 or more hours over the last three years. Certificates were given to Judy Duckworth, Jane Gregory, Mina Haverkamp, Carol Kent, Norma Korte, Anita McConnell, Paula McIntosh, Judy Parr, Melissa Simpson, Ann Schneider, Chris Wiedeman & Millie Wilson.

Barbara Henson was recognized as first year member, and Judy Parr as a 50-year member. Others who have been members 43-48 years are: Mina Haverkamp, Janet Maggio, Paula McIntosh, Ann Schneider, Joyce Taylor, Rozann Wilkins, Mitzi Borum, Mary Wessel, Jeannie Forthman, Neva Hicks, Brenda Langford, and Alice Shelby. Verna Taylor, mother-in-law of Joyce Taylor, was remembered as long-time member of Johnson County HCE.

Carol Harms, District 5 Director, shared a message about diamonds, Hattie Clare Everywhere, and upcoming events. She also installed the officers for the upcoming year. The minutes and financial reports were approved. A topic of discussion was the need to have a money-making project in the fall. Door prizes were given and the food & fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Town & Country Unit for hosting the annual meeting and to all those who took pictures of the day!



Thank you so much for choosing me to be a recipient of this scholarship. I am so honored to represent your Association! This scholarship will be so helpful financially as I pursue my career plans to be a speech-language pathologist. -- Thank you, Libby Conkle

I want to say thank you and I'm so honored and thrilled to be a recipient of this scholarship! -- Thank You, Elise Coakley

I would like to thank the Massac County Home and Community Education Association and Massac County Extension Facilities for awarding me this scholarship. It is greatly appreciated! -- Thank you, Hannah Heine

Thank you for selecting me as one of the scholarship winners. It has been a pleasure to help grandma through the years with some of your events and mailings. I appreciate the help with my college expenses. -- Thank you, Larkin Korte

# Monroe

The Monroe County Association For Home and Community Education (HCE) donated food and monetary gifts for the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service “Free Summer Lunch Program”. Recipients of these free meals are students in need from Waterloo, Valmeyer, Hecker, and Prairie Du Rocher. From left are HCE board members: Ericha Johanning, Laurene Taylor Cobb, Kathi Emery, Janese Sondag, and Lucille Ohms.



Treasurer, Lucille Ohms had “Hattie” created and secretary, Ericha Johanning wrote this newsletter article. She’s really promoting this project for Monroe County HCE.

Kathi & I attended the Mini District Meeting in Pinckneyville on June 27th. Carol Harms our District 5 Director gave updates to pass on to our counties. Janes Chapman gave a wonderful program on “Environmental Wellness”. She talked about food waste. I’ve included the flyer that she gave us on this topic. Also, our new Hattie Claire attended and was well received.

See you at the fair,  
Janese Sondag  
Cultural Enrichment Director



### MEET AND GREET??? Hattie Clair Everywhere

The board recently had a five-foot four-inch-tall Hattie Claire made from sign board. She will make her debut at the fair. We hope she brings attention to our stand and our organization.

I’m not sure where she will stand but she sure is impressive.

She will reside at the Annex Building and can be taken to visit the unit meetings.

Perhaps she will attend other events and return to the Annex Building.

We can put a log out book in the HCE cabinet in the Annex Kitchen.

This way we would know where she is and who is responsible.

The HCE cabinet is the upper double door cabinet to the right of the fridge.

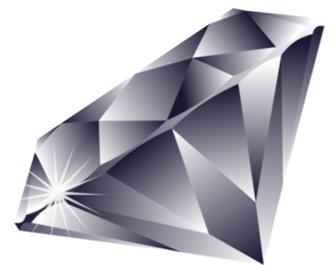
This could become the history of her journey. Oh, think of the places she could go. ....  
Do you have a special birthday or an ordinary birthday? Would she attend a parish picnic? Could she attend the Farmer’s Market? Could she attend a second Sunday concert in Waterloo? Pumpkinfest in the fall? Or the Oktoberfest? She might want to attend Music at Metter? How about homecoming? How about cheering on any one of the high school sports teams in the county?

There are any number of things you could “invite” her to over the next months.

She’s a photo op. I look at her as our mascot and let’s have fun. She is durable, made with vinyl corrugated signboard. She does take up space when she travels, although she is FLAT.

You would need to pick her up during office hours, sign the logbook and where she will go.

Monroe County HCE members attended the “Linus Blanket Volunteer appreciation” luncheon. The blankets were shared with seriously ill/traumatized children in the Metro-East and St. Louis area. Pictured: 1st row; Rose Anne Bense, Arlene Stumpf, Mary Leingang. 2nd row; Carol Hoffman, Judy Eschman, and Kathi Emery. Please note in the first row is also “Hattie Claire”. Thanks for supporting the “Linus Blanket” project!



## *Perry*

Spring in Perry County always brings along our Annual Meeting. We had a great time celebrating 100 years of IAHCE with denim and diamonds. Sue Busler was our fabulous entertainment and Carol Harms installed our officers.

Too Old for 4-H unit painted pollinators and West County Girls took a trip to Rendleman's and Flamm's Orchards and Bald Knob Cross. Our Group Meeting in May was a big picnic (well, it was indoors but still a picnic theme). We had lessons on different ways to try watermelon and a lesson on different stones. Our fried chicken dinner with potato salad and tomato-cucumber salad was topped off with nothing other than homemade ice cream! We played games and had a great time.

Perry County awarded 3 deserving students our scholarships for 2024. These high-school graduates and college students have worked really hard and Perry County HCE is blessed to be able to support kids each year. Our quilt raffle and yard sale are our most important fund raisers for these scholarships.

55 members and friends took a bus trip to Arthur, IL on June 26<sup>th</sup> for dinner at Yoder's Family Restaurant and shopping at Amish stores. Then they traveled to the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan for the show, "Honky-Tonk Angels". Fun was had by all! Perry County also hosted a Mini-District meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> with about 45 attending from Perry, Jackson, Randolph, Franklin and Williamson Counties.

## *Pulaski-Alexander*

The two units in the county consolidated into one this year. With fewer members, this seemed the best way to go. There were details to iron out, etc. We have been working hard with fundraisers for scholarships. We were able to provide three graduating seniors from local high schools with a \$500 scholarship. On June 1st, we invited the winning seniors and their family to a Meet and Greet dinner at the Pulaski Christian Church fellowship hall. They were introduced and presented with a framed certificate. The money is being sent to the college they have chosen to attend.

Plans are being made to furnish lunch at the Livestock Show that is to be held on July 27th at the Fair Grounds in Pulaski. On July 28th, we are to participate in the parade that officially opens the Pulaski County Fair. Old fashioned games are planned for the youth at our HCE booth each evening of the fair.



Perry County 2024



Carol Harms, Dist. 5 Director, Mary Jo King, Cindy Henderson, Marilyn Kerr, Martha McMunn, Amy Kerr



Egyptian winner – Allison Turner

# Randolph

I am sending along an article and pictures about the Cabin Fever Event we had that were in our local newspaper too.

Randolph County was well represented at the 100<sup>th</sup> Conference. Carol Harms served as co-chairman and is also the director of District 5. Janel Kassing was re-elected as International Chairman. Presenting at the Share Shops were Jane Lucht and Charlene Woods on "Randolph County-Where Illinois Began." Janel also presented a Share Shop on International. Also attending as delegates were Jeanne Stamm and Joan Wiegand. All are from Red Bud.



**Members giving a lesson Hankies and how some can be displayed.**

# Union

The three quilts pictured were consignment quilts of one of our members. The quilts were pieced by a relative of her family and the group hand quilted them this past 6 months. The six point star Christmas quilt was pieced by Debbie Rossberg, a board member of Union County HCE. The HCE members hand quilted the quilt and finished it in June 2024. The colors are red and green with a border of gold. Our Union County HCE has made quilts to give to abused children through Children Medical Resource Network in Union County. This is one of our out-reach projects during the year. The picture is of Suzie Kessler and Jane Bauer of Union County HCE. The group has had several quilting Bee's to assemble these pillow case type quilts. The quilt is hand tied and are the size for children to handle.



# White

White county donated items to the Chemo Buddies so they never have to go through Chemo alone. They have also been traveling with Hattie Claire. Picture shown is at the American Legion.



# Williamson

May 28 was the Annual Meeting for Williamson County HCE (Home & Community Education), and we enjoyed it. From entering basket raffles to voting in and installing new officers, to a presentation by our district leader Carol Harms on how the state celebrated our 100th anniversary to gals with over 500 volunteer hours being honored, it was a memorable event.

Then, our board members, especially our new president Judy Spiller, who made the charcuterie, spoiled us with a scrumptious finger food buffet provided by the board as we chatted and waited for the drawing of the raffle winners.

Board Members installed here are: Acting Secretary Lisa Clendenin, 2nd V.P./Treasurer Debbie Doneghue, our beloved Former President of 6 years Judy Cox, moving to 1st V.P.; Public Relations Marie Samuel, Newsletter Editor, Debbie Ryals, Ways & Means, Oleta Massie; Cultural Enrichment, Ethel Mae Mitchell, Director at Large, Brenda Mathis and International & Volunteer Hours chairman: Billie Mathis. We look forward to a great new year and if you'd like to enjoy a monthly lesson & get together.



# Important Dates to Remember

## IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

August 6th, 2024– District 1 and 2 at Seneca High School, Seneca

August 7th, 2024– District 3 at Southern View Chapel, Springfield

August 8th, 2024– District 4 and 5 at St Johns Lutheran Church, Effingham

## CWC

September 24-26, 2024 in Destin, Florida

## H.C.E. WEEK

October 13-19, 2024

## NVON

July 08-10, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois



### *IAHCE WANTS YOU!*

Have you ever really watched the IAHCE Board? We work hard but we have fun too! There is a lot of work that goes on “behind the scenes” at board meetings and such to plan and implement so many aspects of HCE across the State of Illinois. But have you ever really watched how these ladies interact? This is a great group of ladies and now is your chance to consider running and serving on the state board!

### **Applications are being accepted for the following positions:**

2<sup>nd</sup> VP (must have previously served on the state board)

Secretary

Cultural Enrichment

Family and Community Issues

Applications are located in the IAHCE Guidebook at [iahce.org](http://iahce.org) (Pages 67-69) and should be mailed to:

Melissa Chitwood  
Nominating Committee Chair  
1408 East 2250 North Road  
White Heath, IL 61884

Applications must be postmarked by October 1, 2024 Why wait? Apply now!

All positions are for a three year term commencing March 2025.

The state board meets three times a year: March (immediately following conference), June and October. Board members should also be in attendance for Annual Conference in March as well as the District Workshops in August.

Candidates should be a member in good standing and have previously served on an HCE County Board. In addition, they should also possess computer capabilities such as email, scanning, sending attachments, etc. For complete qualifications and job duties, please refer to the IAHCE Bylaws - Section VII – Officers. For questions, please email Melissa Chitwood [mchitwoo@illinois.edu](mailto:mchitwoo@illinois.edu) (there is no “D” it is mchitwoo).

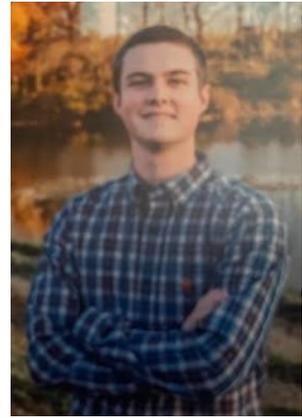
Bring your sparkle and come join the IAHCE Board!

# Scholarship Report

**This year there were 16 applicants for the IAHCE Scholarship. Determining a recipient is always a difficult decision and is based on many factors. After each committee member shared their choices, it was obvious that the following four students are the 2024-2025 winners.**

**Kyle Matthew Bradshaw** is from Griggsville, Illinois in Pike County. (District #3). He plans to attend John Wood Community College in Baylis, Illinois to major in Ag Business. After completion of a degree, Kyle hopes to use his knowledge to bring new ideas to his family farm.

Kyle made the High Honor Roll with his excellent grades. He was involved with FFA as a chapter officer and a State Agricultural Experience as well as participating in almost every Career Development Event. His 4-H involvement meant serving two years as president and being a mentor to approximately 40 members, ranging in ages 8-18, offering guidance, encouragement, and feedback. Kyle's grandmother, Barb Dunhaw, has been an HCE member for 54 years!



**Nora Grace Jones** applied for the IAHCE Scholarship in Richland County (District # 4). Nora plans to attend SIU Carbondale majoring in Pre-Med aspiring for a physiology degree as her goal is to work in a hospital as a PA.

Nora has been an exceptional honor student. She was actively involved in various extracurricular activities, showcasing her commitment to being a valuable member of the basketball (captain) and volleyball (captain) teams for four years, contributing to the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Additionally, her participation in softball and track speaks to her versatility and athleticism. Eleanor Steber, Nora's grandmother, who lives in Richland County, has been an HCE member for 60 years!



**Larkin Danielle Korte** is from Belknap, Illinois in Massac County, (District #5). She plans to attend John A. Logan Community College in Carterville, Illinois and major in Elementary Education to be a First Grade or Special Education teacher.

Larkin belongs to the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Camp Huddle Leader, and a 4-H Teen Leader. In FFA she was a Parliamentarian Officer, Treasurer and she participated in Agriculture Education Competition, Agronomy Competition, District 5 Agriculture Education and helped plan Safety Day Camp. She won the Lady Patriot Softball Rookie of the year Award (2021), and earned a spot on the Southern Illinois Ohio River to River All Conference team, and the Southern Illinois Select Softball Team. Larkin's grandmother, Norma Korte, has been an HCE member for 53 years!



**Meredith Lynn Schaefer** is from Effingham, Illinois, in Effingham County (District #4). Meredith plans to continue her attendance at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana where she is majoring in biology. She made the Dean's List for each semester in her 2 years of attendance at USI. She belongs to the Biology Club, Pre-Dental Club, Pre-Professional Health Club.

Meredith is a motivated, passionate, and caring young woman. After graduating from Optometry school, she would like to come back to Effingham and open her own office of optometry. Marilyn Schaefer, Meredith's grandmother, has been and HCE member for 58 years!



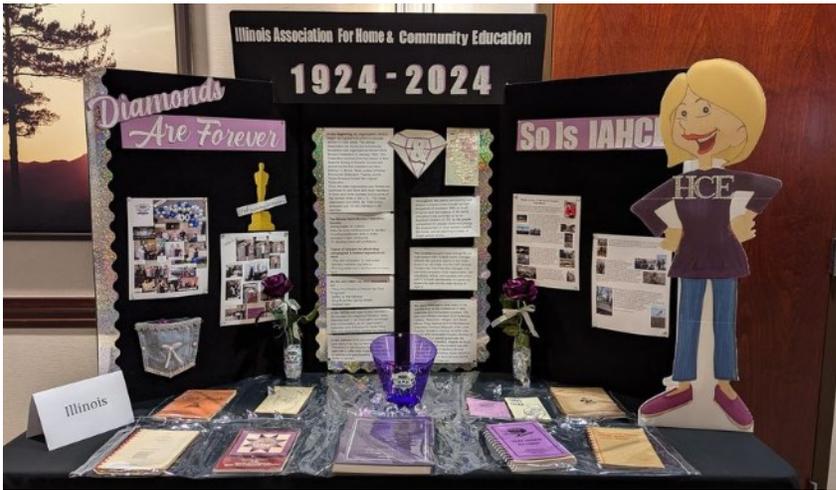
# CRAFT TEACHERS NEEDED

Do you love teaching crafts? Do you have a special project that you would love to share with others? We are looking for craft teachers for our 2025 conference in March. Each session will last one hour. Crafts usually range from \$0-8 (cost that the attendee pays for supplies and instruction). If you have something you would like to share, please contact Janel at [janelkassing@yahoo.com](mailto:janelkassing@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in teaching for next year's NVON conference, we are also looking for crafters for this event.

## Hattie Claire Sightings....





# NVON Conference Photos



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