

The IAHCE Chronicle

Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE



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ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

Angela Hicks - IAHOE President



Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

“Diamonds Are Forever and So Is IAHOE” the 100 th IAHOE theme has brought excitement and joy back into our organization! As I travelled throughout Illinois, the renewed energy was palpable! I would like to encourage all of you (including myself) to hold dear the memories we made throughout our first 100 years and strive to make the next 100 years even more memorable. We have begun some changes to further IAHOE’s future which we shared with you at the August District Workshops. During this past year, I was afforded the opportunity to speak in many of your counties about my trip to the 30th Annual ACWW Triennial in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was an honor and pleasure to serve as a delegate for Illinois and to help pass resolutions so very important not only in our world but someone else’s world.

The resolution that mainly concerns the U.S. is “Food Waste”. What is most exciting was being able to share this wonderful opportunity with you. It was my aspiration to inspire you to learn more about ACWW and Malaysia as well as to inspire you to attend the 31st ACWW Triennial in Ottawa, Canada in April of 2026. As a member of ACWW you are invited to attend. Keep an eye out for more information. If you want to know more about ACWW, I encourage you to visit www.acww.org.uk website.

In September, a few of the IAHOE officers and members attended the CWC Conference in Destin, Florida. It was a good conference with a few educational sessions. The CWC Board shared a new program where the members of CWC can apply for a \$500 grant to promote “Food Waste”. More information will be given to you at the March 2025 Conference. We were in the Florida panhandle during the Helene Hurricane. The local people assured us we were safe and as we saw evacuees check into the hotel that gave us some assurance we would be okay. We experienced some rain and wind and feel very fortunate. Unfortunately some of neighboring Florida Counties and other nearby states did not fare so well. If your county HCE can help those in need, it would be very much appreciated.

As outlined in my letter in the August District Workshop Packet, IAHOE beginning January 1, 2025 will have 4 districts. In this newsletter you will find a map and a listing of the counties by District. Please read carefully and share with your county members. Also outlined in the August District Workshop Packet letter we shared with you the need to increase state dues. The Delegates attending the March 2025 Conference in Effingham will vote to increase the dues to \$8.00 per member. Once the budget is approved, the increase will take effect December 31, 2025.

The IAHOE Board encourages all county HCE members to attend the 101st Annual Conference in March –included in this newsletter you will find the 2025 Conference insert. You will find many exciting opportunities to learn, share, and have fun! Encourage your members to attend the 101 st Annual Conference, “Make Time IAHOE 2025”! I encourage each of you to continue to be positive and to continue building membership in HCE! Consider this quote when searching for new members: “Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.”– Napoleon Hill, author

Angela

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st VICE PRESIDENT – Kathy Peterson

I hope all of you are having a great holiday season. Happy New Year.. Cheers to 2025! My big ask is for you to make a contribution to the 2024 IAHCE Time Capsule. PLEASE!!! Suggestions:

1. County program or annual meeting book
2. Craft project: small or flat with purpose/directions
3. Unit picture (year, names, event)
4. Member who was important to you (Hero, asked you to join HCE, taught you about HCE)
5. Recipe that you are known for at potlucks or another member gave you.
6. Personal story (why you joined, what HCE means to you, why you call HCE home)



TIS the season so please share with me!

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

I've been thinking about what I would like to say in my last year, yes my last, article as 2nd Vice President. It's hard to believe that my six years on the IAHCE board are coming to an end. As I think back on all the wonderful people I have met and worked with, I am in awe. Our membership is made up of outstanding individuals who are truly committed to the IAHCE principles of education, leadership development, and community service. I wish for you all many more years of dedication to this organization.

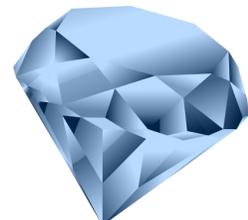
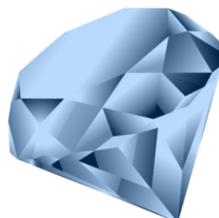


As we begin our next 100 years of IAHCE, I am filled with hope for this organization. Many counties have struggled finding new leadership and new members, but through perseverance and hard work, they are finding ways to improve and grow. A trend I am sure will continue.

It has been an honor to serve with you all! Recently I attended a performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The conductor led and encouraged each musician to perform at their peak, but the truly hard work was done by those musicians. It is the same with your IAHCE board; we are merely the conductors. It is you who keep this organization running at peak performance.

Thank you for your encouragement and support I cherish all the many memories I have made along the way. I look forward to continuing to support IAHCE in my county and I will see you all at our annual conference and August workshops!!

Mary Johnson, 2nd Vice President



SECRETARY- Cathy Eathington

This is my last article as my three years as your state secretary come to a close in March. I have enjoyed meeting so many members and learning about the different counties in Illinois. Around December 1, 2024, all County Presidents will receive the Presidents Package. These are very important to share with your county members. Included will be information on the Annual Conference, March 11-13, 2025, bylaw changes, budget, and nominations for secretary, 2nd vice president, family/community director, and cultural enrichment director.

I look forward to seeing you all in March.

Cathy Eathington, Secretary



TREASURER- Melissa Chitwood

The words thank you do not even begin to express the gratitude I have to the IAHCE Board and all of the members across the state of Illinois who celebrated this past year “Diamonds Are Forever, and So Is IAHCE!” What a fun and wonderful year 2024 has been! Now is the time for us to “Make Time”. What an inspiring theme for 2025! Think of the many things in life we make time for, and the many things in life that we SHOULD make time for. Carol and Emily, along with the rest of the IAHCE Board, have been working hard behind the scenes for another fun, exciting, educational and memorable annual conference. Please plan on making time and joining fellow members at conference March 11-13, 2025 in Effingham. I also want to give a huge shout out to the candidates on the ballot for open IAHCE Board positions. SEVEN members from across the state submitted their applications as candidates for these positions. Thank you ladies! I am so proud of each of these ladies for standing up and volunteering to serve.



Next year, 2025 will be a year of change. Beginning January 1, IAHCE will redistrict from 5 to 4 Districts (BE SURE TO SEND IN YOUR REPORTS REFLECTING YOUR CURRENT 2024 DISTRICT NUMBER). Forms are no longer included in packets and are found at iahce.org. It is important that you use the most current form, especially with the new end of the year membership form. Old forms will not be accepted. Remember to have your reports postmarked (not just in the mailbox, but POST MARKED) by January 5 (this is an earlier due date than in the past).

At the annual business meeting, delegates will be asked to approve a budget which includes a dues increase from \$5 to \$8 per member. Please keep in mind that IAHCE has not asked for a dues increase in over 10 years. This \$3 increase equates to 25¢ per member, per month. Diamonds are Forever, and So Is IAHCE! If we Make Time for HCE, and “Be like a tree. Stay grounded. Connect with your roots. Turn over a new leaf. Bend before you break. Enjoy your unique natural beauty. Keep growing,” (quote by Joanne Raptis) then IAHCE has a beautiful future ahead of us!

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing everyone in

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher



It's December! I'm putting up the tree and decorating my home for Christmas; planning a HCE holiday craft lesson; planning Christmas crafts to do with the grandchildren; I have shopping to do, parties and programs to attend, and a church play to practice. Whew! It's easy to get swept up in the activities and forget about the "reason for the season". I think I'll put some Christmas music on, put some cinnamon and cloves in the simmer pot, pour myself a cup of hot cocoa, and just sit back and think about the wonderful gifts God has blessed me with—family and friends, home and country, and for His gift of His son, Jesus. Then I'll be ready to get busy on all the stuff I still have to do! But instead of feeling overwhelmed, I'll chose to feel the PEACE and JOY of the season. I hope you all will choose to feel it too! Merry Christmas!

I am looking forward to receiving Cultural Enrichment program reports for Educational Awards from your county. Information on compiling and submitting these reports can be found in the guidebook on pages 59-63. Please send no more than one report per category. Mail the reports to me, Becky Belcher, 8682 Co. Rd. 1600E, McLeansboro, IL 622859. They must be postmarked by January 5th. Please note the new deadline date!

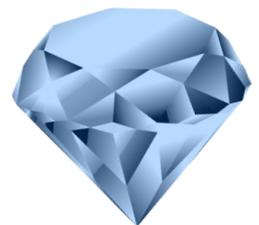
The registration form for entries in the upcoming 2025 Annual Conference Cultural Arts Show, must be post marked by January 31st and sent to me also. Please use the address above. This deadline has not changed for 2025 but will change to January 5th for 2026 and thereafter. The County Cultural Enrichment Director should send a completed registration form, from page 28 of the Guidebook, and include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please fill out the registration form accurately and completely, and don't forget to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. I will send a tag for each item back to you sometime around the middle of February. Brint the tags along with the items you are entering. These tags will be attached securely to the items when you check in at the show.

If you prefer, you may register your items by email. Fill out the form (page 28 in the Guidebook) scan it and email it to me, beckybelcher75@gmail.com by January 31st. I will send a confirmation email as soon as I receive your registration. If you don't get the confirmation email with 24 hours, please resend or call me. I will send your tags by email (around mid-February), which you ust then print and bring with your entries as instructed above.

Please note the following clarification to the size rule: the items must be no larger than 25 inches wide by 24 inches long. The height may be higher than 24 inches, within reason. The item must be able to be displayed on a table.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you in March!

Becky Belcher, Cultural Enrichment



Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory



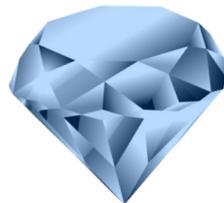
Greetings! I love our new theme for 2025! Time has always been a problem for me. (I've always felt like a cat getting my tail caught in every screen door!) I'm just not quick enough to keep up with time. Time goes by so quickly. My mother told me not to waste time! I'm not sure what she meant. Perhaps when I would sit quietly, she had no idea I was thinking or dreaming about an idea. MAKE TIME. I love this because I feel in control as I can choose how I want to spend my time. The choices I make have consequences that I can feel good about (or not). MAKE TIME gives me the privilege to enjoy time in a positive way. A lady named Eleanor Farjeon put the concept of time into a poem that I love.

There isn't time, there isn't time to do the things I want to do. With all the mountain tops to climb and all the woods to wander through. And all the seas to sail upon, and everywhere there is to go, And all the people, everyone who lives upon the earth to know. There's only time, there's only time to know a few and do a few. And then sit down and make a rhyme about the rest I want to do.

Being on the IAHCE board has given me the wonderful opportunity to meet many HCE members from our entire state. These ladies know how to love, share, and care. They work together on projects, meet people in their own counties to make a difference in their lives, and create moments of fun and laughter as they continue to follow the guidelines for making HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION the great organization that the ladies in the past intended it to be now to continue to make it a great organization in this new century.

All the best and God bless.

Eleanor Gregory, Family and Community Issues



International- Janel Kassing

Happy Fall Ladies,

As I send out this greeting, it is a beautiful fall afternoon before Halloween and we've just returned from October board meetings, planning another exciting conference for you and "taking care of business". By the time you read it, a winter chill may be upon us and hopefully not snow may be on the ground. I hope you've had a blessed fall and are ready to move to the business of IAHCE 2025. I am wearing my 2025 tshirt today.

We collected and dispersed \$11,000+ from the Friendship Projects Fund. Monies went to the ACWW Rural Women in Action Fund, 4-H Foundation, International Peace Garden, IFYE (Illinois Farm Youth Exchange), and to stay in Illinois for International Projects. I am looking forward to seeing your county's Malaysia Education Projects, postmarked by January 5, 2025, packed into my mailbox. We provided funds for 16 counties to apply for the \$50 stipends from the International Funds. Will your county collect theirs? If you need guidance or have questions, please call or email me.

Those of us who traveled to Malaysia for Triennial have present programs on our trip to many counties. What a pleasure to represent Illinois, USA at the Triennial, and present a program at your counties. Thank you for the opportunity! Remember- we will start South Africa in January, 2025. I will have information on diamond mining and recipes in March for you. If there is a specific area you'd like me to research, please let me know. I will have a packet for each county at conference.

Onward to the 2025 conference. Looking forward to seeing you there– on to our future. I will be making time for my family, cats, the kindergartners, 1st and 2nd graders I volunteer to help in my local elementary school, Bible classes, and continuing to maintain my health. Take time for yourselves as well as loved ones!

Happy Holidays!!!

Janel Kassing– International

Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales– Ashley Davis



It's Fall already, the leaves are changing, and temperatures are going lower. Halloween is over Thanksgiving is approaching fast and soon it will be Christmas. Colder temps and the white stuff. Although I do like one good snow, a white blanket to cover the ground and then I am done.

The IAHCE State Board wrapped up the October Board meetings in Effingham this year. And man, oh man was it a busy meeting. But there are so many exciting things coming everyone's way. We all should be gearing up for the 2025 IAHCE 101st Annual Conference. I hope you all have March 11th through 13th, 2025 marked on your calendars and your reservations made. I hope to see you all there.

I want to remind you all that each member is to be given an Individual Volunteer Hour Summary (page 51 in the Guidebook). Each member turning in hours is to fill this form out and turn it into the Unit CVH Chairman. The Unit CVH Chairman then turns these into the County CVH Chairman. It is also in the County best interest to save all the copies of these forms for your records (the state CVH DOES NOT get the INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY FORMS).

In the meantime, you should be getting your hours together and turning them into your county CVH Officer. As always, I am looking forward to seeing the amount this year. For the year 2024 the national value of a volunteer hour is \$33.49. So be sure to get those hours in.

There will be grand awards for CVH! The grand awards are for the county with the Highest Number of HCE Hours Reported and Member with the Highest Number of HCE Hours Reported. The Certificates of Recognition will be given, as well as the Gold Seals.

Reminders: The County Summaries are to be postmarked (emailed hours must be sent by midnight) by January 5th, 2025, to be eligible for State Awards. I am asking you to please print the names (last names first), we all write in cursive differently and some are hard to read. If I can't read the members' name, it possibly will be misspelled on a certificate, therefore I must replace that certificate. Reports that emailed, please send the report as an attachment, if you send as the body of the email, the report does not print out correctly.

Also, this year we are offering you to be able to order your conference tote bag and conference T-shirt early. The tote bag will be \$25.00, and the T-shirt is \$20.00 for all sizes. So, get your orders in for the IAHCE 101st memorabilia, the lapel pin will be for sale at the sales table in March for \$6.00. As always if you pre-order your tote and t-shirt, you will pick those up at the Conference in March.

Public Relations– Emily McDowell

Here we are and the end of the year has snuck up on us, or at least me anyways. I've had a pretty great year, but also some health struggles. Since I last wrote you my husband and I purchased a "she shed" for our yard. I'm slowly converting into a crafting space and hope next year I can have people come in to craft with me. I attended my very first year at the Illinois Homemakers Camp in Monticello. I absolutely loved it although I was feeling a bit under the weather the whole weekend. I signed up for way too many classes and still have quite a few to catch up on and am hoping I can make the time to do that soon. Speaking of making time, I've been pretty convicted of this the past few months and am going to be looking into my schedule to see what I can alleviate in the upcoming year. As my pastor said, you need one day a week just to rest and I can't tell you the last time that rang true in my life. I think the theme of "Make Time" is perfect in today's world and will be a great reminder for us all, to make time for all of the little things we forget to do or want to do but never make the time to do. Next year's conference has a lot of great things in store, so be sure to sign up with the registration form in this newsletter. I've worked on share shops and I think we have a great lineup! Carol has done an amazing job in following in Melissa's footsteps so if you attend, you won't be disappointed!



As we close out our year, I encourage you to submit any remaining Hattie Claire pictures to me. It's been a pleasure seeing all of your photos and where you have taken her. I am so thrilled how many counties participated in the Hattie Claire project! I encourage you to keep using her, if you so choose! Remember– she is a marketing tool so when you have her on display, people may ask you what/who she is and that's when you can give them the HCE spiel! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with love, family, and faith and will make the time to continue with us in 2025!

Emily McDowell, Public Relations

Extension Educator– Cheri Burcham

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all doing well and are able to enjoy preparing for the holidays and not get stressed out! The last few months have been very busy in Extension, and by reading your newsletters, it has been busy for HCE members!!



I enjoyed coming to all of your district meetings and visiting with you. I always feel so welcome when I attend, and of course the food is always great! Something that I mentioned at those meetings was the Extension/HCE guidelines that I was working on updating. I shared some of the revisions with you, but I have finally finished the document. I only added a couple more statements. I hope to make this available to you on the IAHCe website soon. If you feel you need it sooner, you can always contact me and I can send it to you.

I will also be working with Extension communications on our webpage that features HCE and hope to have it posted there, along with the lessons for living handout. The current webpage is pretty outdated, and for now, I would encourage you to go to the lessons for living webpage at go.illinois.edu/2025HCElessons for information on upcoming lessons and go to go.illinois.edu/HCErecordings to view any past webinars/lessons we've had.

Please feel free to contact me if you need anything or have any questions. You can contact me by phone at 217-543-3755 or by email at cburcham@illinois.edu. I wish you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a bright new year!!

Cheri Burcham, Illinois Extension/IAHCe Liaison

IAHCE 2025 – 101st Conference
Program Book Advertisement

DEADLINE—JANUARY 31, 2025

(on or before)



Advertisements come in quarter, half page, or full-page sizes. If interested please **mail this form with payment (made out to IAHCE) to:**

Melissa Chitwood, Treasurer

1408 East 2250 North Rd., White Heath, IL 61884

Cost of (please circle which size you would like):

¼ page \$50

½ page \$75

Full page \$100

Name:/Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Comments about how you want your name, logo, or information to appear:

Please send **ARTWORK OF YOUR LOGO/ADVERTISEMENT** on how you wish it to appear along with a **COPY OF THIS FORM** to:

Emily McDowell, Public Relations

PO BOX 522, Pierron, IL 62273

2025 IAHCe 101st Annual Conference
Bag and T-Shirt
Pre-Order Form



Name: _____

County: _____

District: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

IAHCe Bag Qty: _____ x \$25.00

Total: _____

IAHCe T-Shirt Qty: _____ x \$20.00

Total: _____

S: _____ M: _____ L: _____ XL: _____ XXL: _____ XXXL: _____

All orders are to be postmarked by: January 31,2025

Make Checks Payable to: IAHCe

Please mail order form and money to:

Ashley Davis

1787 N 1750th St

St Elmo, IL 6248

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR – Karen Davis



Let us teach understanding and respect for the past; responsibility and gratitude for the present; confidence and hope for the future.

---William Arthur Ward

As we wrap up our time of celebration, let's remember the above inspiration of Mr. Ward. We have celebrated our past during 2024. We need to be responsible for the present so we can confidently hope in our future. What is our responsibility in this moment? As members we can attract others by enthusiastically supporting our mission: the stability and beauty of our homes and families, to educate and support our community, and to reflect a sound, moral standard throughout our efforts.

With the holidays upon us, do you long for the dog days of summer? I for one, do not. The crisp fall/winter temperatures stir within me a desire to stir up some baked goods. Cookies, breads, cakes are waiting to be created in my kitchen. What's not to like about fresh baked anything? When the weather cools down, my oven heats up. Bring on the holiday baking season! In September I was blessed to spend a week in Colorado Springs with girlfriends from college. What I learned in Brownies decades ago, is so true. *Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.*

Amen to that! Of the new friends I've made in recent years several are my fellow members of Carroll County Freedom Unit HCE. Since my first meeting in 2007, I have appreciated the influence of these ladies (and gent!). Several of those gals are now *golden memories* as they have left this earth, but the present members are certainly *silver* friends.

Have you enjoyed the blessing of some golden friendships? Have you enjoyed the blessing of some new silver friendships, a few of whom will turn to gold? May you all be blessed with a multitude of friends in the ranks of HCE and in your communities. Keep an eye out for them.

Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them.

– William Arthur Ward

Karen Davis



Carroll

In September, Carroll County invited HCE members and their friends to join them in attending the performance of Church Basement Ladies, 2...A Second Helping at Timberlake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll. More than 25 ladies from Jo Daviess, Carroll, Winnebago, and Stephenson Counties enjoyed the heartwarming moments and humor that happen beneath the house of God. This was our third consecutive year of joining together for our multi-county event.

In November, the county presented a program on Fraud Protection. TBK Bank, provided this valuable information. Light refreshments were served by HCE. Members, their guests, and the public were invited to attend.

All our units continue to support local non-profits with their time and financial support.

Jo Daviess

Seasons Greeting from Jo Daviess County.

We have had a very busy few months, which included a shoe drive, where members collected 1000 pairs of shoes to be donated to groups abroad to repurpose and refurbish.



PIC 1 - Two of our members dressed up as shoes

Our Friendship Day was a sharing of quilts our members and their family members have made. We had a great display of all sorts of patterns, from Log Cabin to Handkerchief quilts.



PIC 2 -Terri and Eloise sharing their patterns and materials in their quilts.

Celebrating HCE Week included Units in various projects and a display in the window of the Stockton Heritage Museum.

Many more activities took place with our Units this year and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2025.

Good health and Seasons Greetings to all.

Angels are like diamonds. They can't be made. You have to find them. Each one is unique. - Jaclyn Smith

Life keeps throwing me stones and I keep finding the diamonds. - Ana Claudia Antunes

Through darkness diamonds spread their richest light.

- John Webster

Mercer County had a board meeting in August, 2024. Plans were made for a presentation in October to celebrate HCE Week, and plans were also discussed for the annual meeting. Mercer County's program for HCE week was handled by Cara Ausmus, Mercer County president, and Dr. Carol Longley, Health professor with Western Illinois University.



Cara gave a short program featuring the country of Malaysia, our country of study for 2025. Malaysia is a small country with a large population of 35, 682,000.. The capital alone, Kuala Lumpur, has a population of 8, 816,000. Cara emphasized the fabric industry of this country. Many visitors to Malaysia will seek the fabrics that are manufactured here. Cara, herself, enjoyed shopping for these amazing fabrics that may be available in shops along the shopping midway or maybe in a larger venue. These fabrics can be quite exquisite and sought after by many people across the world.

Carol Longley was our other presenter. Carol's expertise is nutrition. This is to say that she is well qualified with a PhD in Nutrition. Her program detailed the necessary steps in food preparation from raw food, to cooking the dish, and for a meal, to serving the food to family or a large crowd. Yes, most cooks know the safety rules involving various foods being prepared at the same time. However, being reminded of these rules is not an insult but a gentle nudge to draw on our memories.

Carole stressed that all foods:: produce or meat or dairy have three enemies of contamination. They are bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Any one of these pose a serious health risk if not treated with care and proper sanitation or preparation. Just to show how quickly bacteria can multiply, Carol asked Cara to take this piece of paper and pretend that it is bacteria. She asked Cara to begin tearing the paper into halves, quarters, and just keep tearing the paper into small and smaller and smaller bits. Of course this was to emphasize how quickly bacteria can multiply and spoil the foods that we prepare and eat. After forty-five minutes, Cara didn't have any paper left to tear! In the meanwhile Carol was giving us rules of preparation;

- A. Wash your hands before you begin any food prep.
- B. Have a separate cutting area or board or mat when working with one ingredient to another.
- C. Be sure to have a reliable thermometer to check the internal temperatures of foods.
- D. Cook and bake all foods to proper internal temperature.
- E. Lastly, gathering all foods to store as leftovers while taking into consideration the amount of time it may sit on a table after the meal is finished.

Carol finishes by, telling us these rules of preparation will help all cooks avoid foodborne illnesses as contamination is kept at a minimum.



Rock Island

Rock Island County had three board members attend the District I Meeting in Seneca. Information they received was shared with the other board members at our August meeting and with unit chairmen at the Leadership Update. Unit chairmen were also given job descriptions for the unit officers to help them better understand their responsibilities within their unit. October 12th was our annual Cultural Arts Day combined with International Day. Our program was on the Country of Study, Malaysia, and food native to the country was served. The top three winners of the crafts entered were, first place went to Ida Kerr, Cordova Unit, on her "3D Quilt". Second Place was a tie going to Mary McCarthy, Cordova Unit on her "Sweatshirt Jacket" and Elaine Brown, Riverdale Unit, on her quilted table runner. It was difficult to vote for the top three choices as all the entries were remarkable. We also had a table for members to display crafts they made but not entered for judging. There was a Christmas tree with recycled ornaments, a children's quilt and a fidget quilt which drew a lot of attention.

We also had a quilt tying day a few weeks later. The completed quilts will be distributed to area nursing homes. It was a great day tying the quilts but also the socializing with members of the other units.



Stephenson

GREETINGS FROM STEPHENSON COUNTY!

The 170th Stephenson County Fair was held on July 23-27 at the fairgrounds in Freeport. Once again, Stephenson County HCE had a designated area in the Home Economics Building where we could display and hand out information on our organization. As the area was large enough, we were able to present programs and workshops. This year we had everything from freeze drying your food to raising honey bees to bow making. There was a hands-on session where you could creatively decorate (and then eat) a cupcake which had been baked in an ice cream cone. Fairgoers of all ages— little kids to retirees— stopped by to decorate cupcakes. We also had a demonstration on making flowers out of plastic bottle bottoms (popular with the younger set)| In one area, we had a card table set up with crayons and pictures so kids could take a break, relax, and just sit and color.

On Tuesday, August 6, Stephenson County HCE had eight members make the trip to Seneca High School for the District 1 meeting, where we heard the latest information on HCE. We also had the opportunity to visit with members from other counties that make up our district.

A multi-county meeting was hosted by Stephenson County on Thursday morning, September 5, at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau in Freeport. There were eleven HCE members at this meeting who represented Carroll, Jo Daviess, Winnebago, and Stephenson counties. In October, Stephenson County HCE will have the annual meeting, followed by the International Meeting on Malaysia. Actually, it will be on October 31, Halloween!

WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

4-H, County and State Fairs have come and gone. The IAHCE Workshops happened and were well attended. Lots of information was handed out. The 2025 Lessons for Living should have been received and all counties should be getting their 2024-25 programs set up. Everyone should be working on their Cultural enrichment items for the 2025 IAHCE Conference made and selected soon.



Fall has come with the start of school and Harvesting of crops. Fall brings out the beauty of nature and the many colors of the trees. Hope everyone can enjoy all that nature has provided us. As Fall ends, and Winter approaches may we be blessed with warm and fond memories of Friends and Family. My wish for all of my IAHCE Friends is for you to have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. May each of you be safe and healthy and to hold lots of wonderful memories into the New Year. See you all at the Conference in March . “MAKE TIME” is the theme.

DuPage

Ah technology! We heard about restaurants that no longer used paper menus, but the first encounter for the Lunch Bunch was on July 24th at Manhattan’s American Bar and Grill in Carol Stream. We were handed menu tablets– some didn’t move well, others shut off. There were no details about offerings, but we did enjoy going there before and did enjoy what was served. We hope that the kinks will be corrected when we go back again.

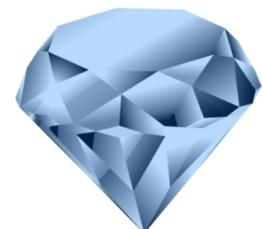
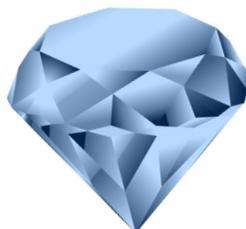
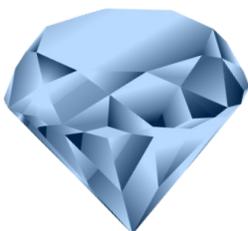
The July 17th Community Service Day was cancelled due to the Extension Office being used as the preparation center for 4-H for the July 25th-29th DuPage County Fair. Many of us helped with judging entries and working in the booth and exhibition hall. The community Service Day was rescheduled for August 21st.

Our potluck and update (formerly Officer’s Training School) on August 26th found us discussing the changes in the dates for sending our reports to IAHCE and the upcoming dues increase.

Once again the bugs cancelled our September 4th Morning in the Park. The September 26th lesson for living “Navigating Changes as We Age” was followed by the Lunch Bunch at the Honey Jam Café in Naperville. The October 8th lesson “Eating for Eye Health” brought us new information.

Ginny Gaspar and Kathy Swain gave us an October 17th presentation on Malaysia. We enjoyed a potluck luncheon of Malaysian and Asian foods and desserts. The Lunch Bunch will try the Humming Bird Café in Winfield on October 31st.

Mylon Fisher, Public Information



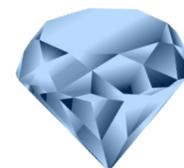
Grundy

This year is going too fast. We are already getting ready for Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and Christmas and before you know it will be our annual conference in March. The District Meeting in August was very informative with all the changes happening. We are working on lessons for 2025. We had wonderful weather for our Corn Festival week here in Morris. We celebrated our 75th year. The Corn Festival is the event in Grundy County with an emphasis on events downtown and the farming community. The weather was perfect and the entertainment was delightful. The carnival and firemen's water fight is always a big draw.

The Scarecrow Stroll along Chapin Park was great. We entered the contest along with other clubs, businesses, schools, and farm families. There were so many entries it was hard to pick a winner.

Next week is HCE week and our units will be gathering at Dollinger's Farm for games and a lesson. We are hoping that the weather stays this nice. The book club is reading Things I Wish I Told my Mother. Other books read were : The Hike and The Lie Maker.

Monica Evans, Grundy County PR



Kane

Kane County Board continues to meet monthly under the direction of President Naomi Redman. She has particular interest in the bee and pollination program. At each Board meeting Naomi prepares a treat made with honey or new information to return to the Units for progress and continuing interest in the state program.

Unit members again informed the public about the HCE program in Kane County at the Kane County and 4-H fair, July 18-21. The two table display featured the activities surrounding the Country of Study, Malaysia; Arts and Crafts made by Members and membership fliers and Unit location for prospective members. Contact with persons requesting more information was made the week after the fair. Individual Units and the HCE Board provided plaques for 4-H member champion exhibits at this county fair.

Membership is a main focus this 2024 year. Progress is slow, we have new members but with those finding that they cannot attend meetings anymore our numbers remain about the same. 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.

The All County Picnic, unfortunately had to be cancelled; but to use the exciting games and craft ideas already prepared the Board cleverly incorporated these activities into a fantastic Fun Day and Fine Arts Competition program October 16th. Eight outstanding items were selected for exhibit at the March state conference. Board members presented The Kane County "Tater Family" for the amusement of participants. Kenneth Hesselbach, a local honey producer, had a slide show, protective clothing and equipment for the bee honey on display, He concluded his presentation by giving several jars of honey to lucky winners. A "Spud- Tac-ular" meal including Potato Soup, sandwiches, chips, desserts and beverages was served.

Lake

Hello from Lake County,

We are having a warm dry autumn so far with the trees just starting to turn bright shades of red. Since our last article, we have attended the District meeting in Seneca, IL and held our International Day event.

Our county's board members attended the IAHCE District Meeting at the Seneca High School on August 6 in Seneca, IL. It was my first time attending a district meeting at a high school so observing how well the change in venue worked for the meeting was interesting. The school's auditorium was well equipped to welcome us to the meeting and the classrooms had plenty of space for the breakout sessions. Everyone received the same handouts this year, and the shared information was appreciated. Although lunch was not the home cooking we have gotten in the past, the sandwiches from Jersey Mikes Subs were pretty tasty.

We held our International Event on August 23 where 35 members and 4 guests attended. Attendees enjoyed a Malaysian tasting menu from recipes LCAHCE International Director Jane Ellen Keroson had received at the 2023 District meeting. Tables were decorated with the colors of the Malaysian flag, and all who attended received a present of a hibiscus bloom, the national flower of Malaysia. These were in paper form shown below and made by IAHCE/LCAHCE President Angela Hicks and LCAHCE Treasurer Sandy Henke. Angela gave a very interesting presentation on her 2023 trip to Malaysia to attend the ACWW Triennial Conference.



Jane Ellen Keroson - Hostess & LCAHCE International Director



National Flower of Malaysia - Hibiscus



Angela Hicks, Speaker IAHCE PRESIDENT

Next time, you will read about our Cultural Enrichment Day, a day of Bingo with a Potluck lunch hosted by our American Unit, and, a first for us, an all Lake County HCE Holiday party.

Stay well and be safe until next time.

Candace Keegan

Newsletter Editor for LCAHCE

And when you become a diamond, you'll see why life had to pressure you. – Unknown

McLean

Where did the year go? Many activities made time pass fast for McLean County HCE members!

Local leaders shared with units “Have you had an Interaction with Medication or Foods?”, “What Services does ARC offer (Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center)” and “McLean County Holiday Stories”. Minor lessons on Malaysia each month included study of the history timeline, agriculture, economy, geography plus people and demographics.

State president Angela Hicks provided a very interesting International day travelogue on Malaysia. McLean County members and guests enjoyed a light lunch and observed many items made in Malaysia. The Queen of Malaysia hosted the 2023 ACWW conference at the Malaysian palace and a local hotel in Kuala Lumpur attended by Angela and an Illinois HCE delegation.

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 Humane Society of Central Illinois will receive contributions each month from members – folders, paper towels or bleach and cat food. The Read and Share group met to discuss the books Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris and Bright Young Women by Jessica Knoll.

Cultural Enrichment programs started off in September with lunch at Common Grounds Cafe in Gridley, followed by a tour of Gridley Telephone Museum plus side stops at local shops. In October a workshop offered a chance to create a wreath Christmas ornament and stenciled kitchen towel. November found members and guests at a “Cookie Exchange” including recipes plus history of the cookies.

HCE Month was recognized through articles in community publications, fliers in many locations and unit activities such as giving cookies to First Responders and local shelters or agencies.

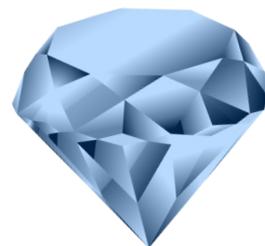
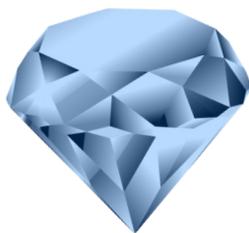
Finally, HCE continues to raise money for the HCE scholarship fund for 4-H Members, and other community service projects by having bake sales at the Old Rugged Barn in October and December and the ever-rewarding Attic Treasures and Bake Sale event held at the Interstate Center in Bloomington in the Mini-Expo Building on Saturday, October 12th. December will offer a Fannie May in-store fundraiser.

December found each unit celebrating the holiday individually with luncheons in selected spots. Members and guests will enjoy the county Christmas party luncheon to the theme of Candy Cane Lane at St. John’s Lutheran Church. A make-it take-it, bingo and a musical selection topped off the holiday event hosted by the Eastsiders unit.

Consider visiting for the Friendship and Membership Tea on February 8, 1-3 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church in Normal. Enjoy tea and cookies plus a Civil War Quilts program.

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

See you in McLean County! Come Visit!
Barb Jurgens, McLean County PR Committee

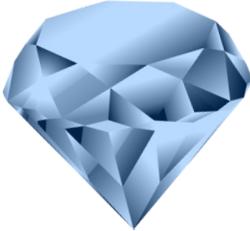




Angela Hicks presenting on Malaysia and the ACWW conference.

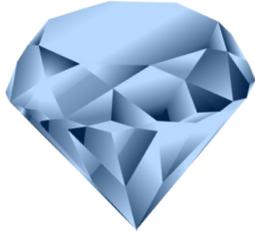


McLean County HCE Annual Meeting- 50 year members.



HCE Annual Meeting in McLean County

Gridley, IL Telephone Museum on McLean County HCE cultural enrichment tour.



McLean County Attic Treasurers sale of tables and many shoppers.

Will

It's beginning to look like Autumn, especially here in the Will County area. Leaves on trees are becoming rust, red, yellow and brown-colored—all signs that their life is coming to an end. Although it's a beautiful time of the year, it also signals the beginning of the cold snowy winter that is predicted. In August, four board members attended the District 2 meeting in Seneca. We learned that Districts 1 and 2 will be combined in 2025, and we will have a new director. We wish to thank Rita Overacker, our District 2 Director, for her support of our group the past few years. Rita has attended many of our meeting/lunches. We also learned of Hattie Claire Everywhere and have since included her in photos of our events.

The WCHCE hosted its third yearly Bunco party for members and guests in September. We took a poll of our members, and they agreed it was a fun time and a good way to meet those in other units and enlist new members, too. Attendees bring their lunch, and drinks, desserts and prizes are furnished. Our next will be in February, 2025. On October 15th, we held our Cultural Arts Event. The highlight of this event was "Abraham Lincoln!" Of course, he personally wasn't present, but Kevin Wood did such a wonderful job impersonating him, you almost thought he was. He talked about his life as the 16th President of the United States and explained the famous documents which he is famous for writing, including the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg address. It was a very interesting and entertaining presentation.

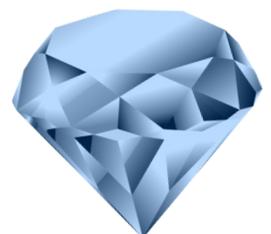
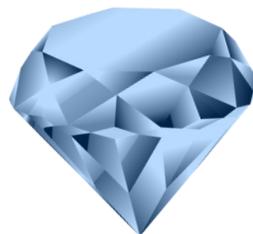
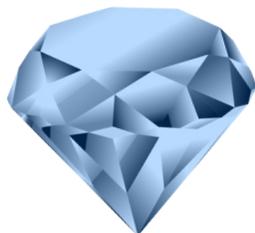
During the meeting, Gail Shaw, President conducted an "In Memoriam" ceremony for our Board Treasurer, Carol Partilla, who recently passed. Her smile and sense of humor will be missing from our meetings. Marcia Smith, was introduced as the new secretary, replacing Mary Cheney, who resigned. Also introduced was Tina Benson, our present CVH Director, who has taken on the position of Board Treasurer, also. Carolyn Yoemans, First Vice President, also informed members of our Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 3rd at Crispy Waffle. It will be a fun time for all in attendance.

Elaine Czajowski, Community and Health Issues announced community collections for the coming year. We will be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, cards and calendars for the Veteran's Home in Kankakee, and snacks for the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community, that educates and counsels school-aged children about drug and alcohol addiction and smoking health risks.

Andrea Zoelle provided the members with information about Malaysia, our 2024 focus country, and she announced that Sue Rehal's and Mary Cheney's art projects would be entered in the State Conference Cultural Enrichment contest in March.

Our day included a wonderful luncheon, provided by Bela Cuchina in Joliet: Mediterranean chicken and potatoes, mandarin orange salad, and dessert bars. It was a wonderful day! Wishing everyone a blessed and happy holiday season!

Mary Barrett, Newsletter/PR



DISTRICT 3 NEWS

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill



As I write this message today, I am enjoying my favorite fall weather. Things are about to start getting very busy again as we celebrate HCE Week and I will be joining several counties for annual meetings. It has been fun to join many of you this year with the glitz and glamour of Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCe. Having Hattie Claire join the many festivities has been an added bonus. As the year comes to a close, please remember to get all reports in on time. Most are now due January 5th. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2025 conference in March. Making Time will gives us things to contemplate as well as celebrate. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Note: My NEW ADDRESS: 4752 Arbor Court, Decatur, IL 62526

Champaign

On July 10th, CCHCE had a booth at the Fisher Fair Kids Game Day. There were over 100 kids came that morning to participated in a number activities and games. CCHCE booth was a “Make It & Take It” project. Each child decorated a flower pot and planted plantlets (spiderettes/pups) directly into the potting soil taking it home to watch it grow. We had a lot of kids come and all enjoyed the activity. We also had a display about CCHCE. Also cards were handed out about our Annual Garage Sale.

On July 19th and 20th was our Annual Indoor Garage Sale at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building. The garage sale was so successful because of donations, and tremendous support and work by our members. We CCHCE made almost \$3000. We had 566 people come and purchase items at our sale plus several children that came with their parents and selected items (toys/dolls) that parents were happy to purchase for them.

On July 23, CCHCE members were at the Champaign County Fair and took shifts to monitor Champaign County 4-H youth projects that were on exhibit in Kesler Hall. Their projects offer hands-on ways to learn about a topic that interests them. Their projects/exhibits are judged and some are sent to the Illinois State Fair for judging state wide. Great exhibits by the Champaign County 4-H youth. CCHCE Community Projects Weighted Blanket Project for Autistic Children in Champaign County. Each unit are assigned a special holiday to make tray favors for 50 residents of the Illini Heritage Care Center. This year we awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to one of our members granddaughter that is attending the University of Illinois. CCHCE book club meets monthly and in September the club met at a members Country Cottage Farm in Fisher, IL for breakfast.

On August 7th, thirteen CCHCE members attended the District 3 Workshop in Springfield. Our new theme for 2025 was announced “Make Time for IAHCe”. Our cultural arts show was held on August 19th at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Several members brought their special projects to be judged for IAHCe State Conference in March 2025. Projects selected were Richey Vanderspool -a knitted baby blanket; Rebecca Gatewood – recycled an advertiser’s bag into a purse bag; Marty Long – a 4th of July Diamond art picture; Melissa Chitwood – mesh snowman wreath, repurposed Christmas cards into geometrical ornaments; Lynn Trotter – paper craft 5 greeting cards; Nancy Mathis – embroidered pair of pillow cases, beautiful white crocheted child’s dress and selected “Best of Show”.. Guest speakers were Kathleen Ruhter, owner and Kyle Miller, Farm Manager of the Ruhter Bison Ranch in Newman, IL – Bison Feeding America for over 10,000 years. Interesting program about raising Bison for market.

On September 6th, we had Game Day which is well attended and enjoyed by all. Some members enjoyed putting together puzzles for the day. At the end of the day, members played card bingo which is a popular game at the event. Everyone brought snacks to share and ice cream from our ice cream social was served.

University of Illinois Extension Educators present two of our Lessons for Living: September 6th gave the lesson for October "Estate Planning 101"; October 8th gave the lesson for November "Navigating Changes as We Age". Unit's members presenting the lesson at the Unit meeting attended. The October lesson was also attended by the Bondville/Seymour Unit which was the day of their meeting.

We had a "Christmas Crafts Workshop" on October 2. We learned to do a few crafts, talked a little about ways to decorate our Christmas Trees, Wreaths, or Xmas basket for the Holiday Trees & Craft Sale on November 1st and 2nd at the Farm Bureau Building.

On October 7, Champaign County HCE Board members attended the DeWitt, Macon & Piatt Tri-County HCE meeting to share ideas and connect with county HCE members. The District 3 Director reported updated information from IAHCe. Starting in January 2025 District 3 will become District 2 with a few changes in the counties in this district. A delicious salad luncheon was enjoyed.

Unit Projects: Mayview Unit on October 15th met to roll newspapers for the Champaign County Humane Society for their cat and dog cages. Also, members brought other items needed by the Humane Society: plastic shopping bags for yard pickup, shredded paper, cleaning products, bleach and empty medicine bottles. Also, Mayview Unit collects the fronts of greeting cards that are sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Nevada. The children continue to revamp the recycle cards in effort to provide teens with life and work skills. Members also collect empty medicine bottles for a local Veterinary. Each member brings new toys for the local "Toys for Tots" collections for Christmas. They also collect used eye glasses and hearing aid for the local Lions Club project. Members of Staley Unit brought to their last meeting, children's items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for children in need around the world. They collected over 5 banker boxes full of goods. Items brought were placed in decorative baskets for the tables for their meeting as centerpieces.

Our next events will be our 9th Annual Holiday Trees and Craft Sale on November 1st and 2nd. There will be 20 vendors and several CCHCE members will be vendors at the Craft Sale. Unit are busy decorating beautiful themed Christmas trees, wreaths and gift baskets that will be sold by silent auction. Also, members will be bringing baked goods for our bake sale at the craft sale. November 15th will be our Membership Luncheon and December 2 will be our International Event. All of our events are at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building.

Please check our website for information on CCHCE events. www.champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com

Carol Froeschl, CCHCE PR Chairman



DeWitt

Hi from Dewitt County, we don't have a regular meeting in July but this year we had our big fundraiser at our local Kirby foods selling sandwiches July 5th and 6th. This is always very successful! On July 10th thirteen of our members and guests traveled to Sullivan to see "On Golden Pond", everyone enjoyed the play. August 7th five of our members went to the IAHCE District Workshop in Springfield. On August 28 several of our members joined Macon County and went to the Ronald Reagan museum in Eureka.

In September we had our International Day on Maylasia, Alice Grooms from DeWitt County was the speaker. Alice traveled to Maylasia and had many interesting stories and pictures. Richland Culinary school served traditional Maylasia food and it was very good! October 7th we hosted our Tri County Board meeting. We had 10 visiting from Champaign County, Karen Cahill our District 3 Director and Melissa Chitwood, State Treasure were in attendance. We had a very interesting meeting with 35 people present. A salad luncheon was served!

We did not plan any activities for HCE week for our county, however we did join Macon County for their activities and everyone that went had a very good time. For our October meeting we had someone from the Flower Corner give a demonstration on making a fall arrangement, the flowers were beautiful and Hattie Claire was there!

November 6th will be our District 3 Mini District Meeting, this will be held at the Macon County Office. This will be our last District 3 meeting because next year we will be District 2! November 19th will be our Annual Day. We will be doing something different for us since our new building is not very large we are going to a restaurant and they will cater a buffet lunch. Karen Cahill will be installing officers and our speaker for the day will be Joey Long director of the CH Moore Homestead Museum here in Clinton.

We have not made plans for our Christmas party on December 17th! We will have our Hattie Claire there, she has traveled with us several times!

Everyone have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!



Edgar

We have had a busy fall with several activities. September started it all off with International Education on Malaysia. We sampled some of the dishes that are served in that country. Our guest speaker was Angela Hicks, who is our state HCE president. She was very informative and fun.

In October we celebrated HCE Week with a display at the Paris Library and two events; a craft day and community education program, along with officer training.

On Tuesday, craft day involved decorating jean pockets for pen and note pad holder and making the ink pen for the pockets. Lunch was provided by the HCE board along with cake provided by the Clark county ladies who attended. Several members enjoyed the day.

On Thursday, a Disaster Preparedness program was presented by Mary Liz Wright. A very informative program on how to prepare for a major disaster. Cookies and drinks were provided. Officer training followed the program with board members speaking on their respective offices.

The board would like to thank all who attended the programs.



Macon

We had a great bus trip to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Museum and Peace Garden on August 28 . The collection numbers over 10,000. Items from President Reagan's Eureka College days, his movies and TV career, his governorship of California, and two terms as President of the United States. We had some time to spare so our bus driver, Rick, suggested that we got to Breakers. It was similar to Beachy's and Shady Crest in Arthur, Illinois. After that our group went to Cornerstone Restaurant in Eureka for a nice lunch. Our next stop after lunch was Washington, Illinois and Step Back in Time. There were three floors of items from the past for sale. Several of our group found candy at Hollands Mercantile. It was a wonderful day!

International Day was a memorable one that we shared with Dewitt and Piatt County. Alice Grooms took us on a trip to Malaysia. She had many pictures and exhibits of her trip to Malaysia. Our delicious lunch was catered by Chef Tucker and the Richland Community College students.

Our future programs will be HCE week in October. We will have Don Chamberlain, who will tell stories about famous Native American women and four white women who were captured by Native American tribes on October 14th; a craft day with several items to create and board games and snack day to conclude our week.

Our Fall Meeting will be October 30. Our speaker will be Anne Irwin, the director of Operation Enduring Support. We will also have our Cultural Enrichment displays to be voted on.

Karen Cahill will have a Mini District Workshop on Wednesday, November 6. We are looking forward to all of the current and future plans that she will share with us.

On November 20, we will have a speaker from the Family Justice Center. Our group continues to have our Sewing Days. We have a large group of members who participate in these activities. They have made hundreds of pillowcase, bonding hearts, and covers for babies tubes.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas time from MCHCE!!!

Enjoy this precious time with your family and friends.

Linda Austin, Public Relations



Be like a diamond precious and rare, not like a stone that is found everywhere.

-Rita Gatourey

Piatt

Carol Drayton took time out of her summer to take a trip to visit the 4-H Tri-County Fair where Piatt County AHCE presented **Madelyn McCoy**, (one of our own Piatt County 4-H'ers), a large *Ginger scissors* in recognition of her winning the top prize in the *Heritage Skills Category* for her *cross stitch display*. Carol's comment on the general quality of the projects that she saw at this local 4-H Tri-County Fair: **IMPRESSIVE!!!** Sounds like this awards presentation might be a great field trip for Piatt Co. AHCE next year.

Miriam Seevers worked to present 89 Newborn Baby Hearts to Macon County AHCE. These flannel hearts are worn on the parents's clothing for a time period in order to pick up their scent. They are then transferred to the newborns in order to help the babies become familiar with their parents.

This summer several Piatt County AHCE members worked to prepare an assortment of pin cushions in order to present them for sale at the Annual Piatt County Quilt Show.

Four of our Piatt Co. AHCE board members attended our District 3 Workshop on August 7, 2024 that was held in Springfield, Illinois. This is a meeting with the Illinois State Board Members and is designed to inform the 5 state districts of important changes in state procedures and in future plans for 2024.

Our Piatt Co. AHCE members participated in supporting the 2024 *Pieces of Piatt's Past Annual Quilt Festival* on Saturday, August 17, 2024. This well-organized and delightful quilt show was held at the Cisco Center. The membership sales table earned \$135.00. Our Piatt Co. AHCE members also provided sweet breakfast treats and afternoon sweets and drinks for the guests and staff who attended this Annual Piatt County Quilt Show. Our sweets were enjoyed by all of the attendees who stopped by for a taste. We accepted "cash donations" for this food and drink and collected \$318.00.

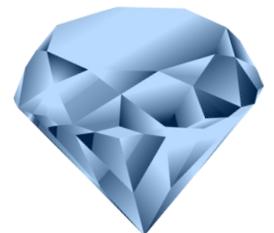
Martha Lynch had been keeping track of our 4-H support events. She helped with the "*Cooking with Grandmas*" event on June 18, 2024 at the Monticello First Presbyterian Church. She also attended the first 4-H *Meeple Mayhem (playing historic card games party)* at the First Presbyterian Church on June 26, 2024. They had lots of parental help and the 4-H'ers were having lots of fun! We are planning to hold another 4-H support event on October 14, 2024 at the Piatt Co Extension Office. At this event the 4-H'ers will be making *fruit filled Edible Center Pieces* and cute *star-like Christmas Tree Ornaments*.

On Wednesday, Sept 18, 2024 fourteen of our Piatt Co. AHCE members attended our Tri-Co. International Day Celebration at the Macon Co. Extension Office. This years delightful presentation on Malaysia was hosted by DeWitt County AHCE. Alice Grooms, the DeWitt Co. speaker, combined a hands-on sampling of individually presented tropical fruit plates with a detailed audio visual presentation informing our audience about Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur, and the 2023 ACWW Convention. Needless to say she also shared with us a multitude of product examples that she brought home with her after her 10 day visit to Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian lunch served by Chef Tucker, one of the professors from Richland Community College, was served to our taste-buds with a definite Malaysian twist. The fruit pudding desert, think soybeans as a main ingredient, was delicious. Yes, so was the rest of our meal. **Excellent Job DeWitt County!!!** A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY EVERYONE! THANK YOU!!!!





*Every soul is a diamond.
It takes a trained eye to
see and appreciate it's
value. - The Meaningful
Life Center*



Autumn finds us looking back on our busy summer and preparing for the end of the year in Tazewell County. Hattie Claire has joined us on many of our adventures. She also spent October at the East Peoria Fondulac Park District for HCE month.

The end of July found us once again feeding our hungry 4-H exhibitors and their families with the HCE food stand at the 4-H Fair. On August 7th, all seven members of the Tazewell County Board were able to attend the District 3 meeting in Springfield. At the end of August, we kicked off our new year with two lessons at Terrific Tuesday: Native Plants and Pollinators by May Bach, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener; and Current Cyber, Mail, and Phone Scams by Deputy Nathan Hastings, Tazewell County TRIAD President. In early September, I spoke to the Pekin Garden Club about HCE and the NVON BEE-CAUSE initiative backed by members of my unit and Hattie Claire.

As fall arrived, we had two members attend Illinois Homemakers Craft Camp at the 4-H Camp in early October. Almost immediately thereafter, we had our Welcome to Malaysia International Luncheon. Since Angela Hicks had shared information with us in May about her ACWW Malaysian trip, we watched a short video about Kuala Lumpur and I shared reflections about my Caterpillar business trip to Malaysia in the mid-1990's. Before the lunch buffet line opened, our members told us a little about the Malaysian dishes they made to share with us. Each person who attended received a batik quilting square like the batik textiles made in Malaysia. We had twenty-five attendees, which included two guests. We also collected our Friendship Project Funds as well as the 'honey money' supporting the NVON BEE-CAUSE collected by each unit.

As the end of the year approaches, we are busy finishing year-end reports and preparing for the new year. I'm sure Hattie Claire will be making appearances at many holiday celebrations as we wrap up the year! We are looking forward to the 2025 IAHCCE Annual Conference.

Here's wishing everyone Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year!
Until next time...

Denise Jatho, Tazewell County Public Relations Director



HCE 4-H Fair Food Stand



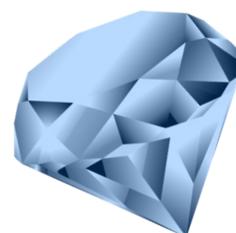
District 3 Meeting



Terrific Tuesday



Malaysia Intl Luncheon



Vermilion

Hello from Eastern Illinois!

Vermilion has a small group of HCE ladies, but we stay very active in our county!

Our Annual HOBBO Style Soup Picnic was held on Tuesday, September 17th. The location for our outing was Kickapoo State Park Pavilion, Oakwood, Illinois. A meet and greet was at 10:30 a.m. Dressing like a hobo was optional. Lunch was served around 11:30 a.m.

To cook our famous HOBBO soup in a large buffet cooker, there was a starter base of meat and potatoes pre-cooked. Guests were asked to bring two cans of vegetables; one to add to the soup and one to be donated to a local food pantry. We had a wonderful variety of food donated. Food gathered was donated to the Oakwood food drive that took place the next day after the picnic. All that attended the picnic also brought a dish of their favorite recipe for all to share. Tea, water, and all table service was provided for the picnic.

Mary Stampini, cooked HOBBO style over an open tin can stove, sausages for us to eat. They were very tasty! Mary also provided the crafts for all to make and take; ribbon angels and painted rocks in a beautiful design.

Vermilion County HCE had a total of eleven members and two special guests in attendance including District Director, Karen Cahill, and the Macon County Treasurer, Sally Dennis.

Thank you to all for attending our fun day annual HOBBO Picnic 2024!

On Tuesday, October 1st, we hosted a carry in potluck luncheon and the East Park Church in Danville. Everyone brought a dish of a favorite recipe for all to enjoy. Lots of good food was served.

Mary Stampini, International Chairperson, introduced our speaker, Shirley Splittstoesser. Shirley presented a slide presentation of Malaysia. Malaysia is our country of study for 2024.

All the pictures were taken by Shirley while on a trip with her husband to Malaysia, found in the South China Sea. Malaysia information prepared by Mary Stampini. Of the country of study, was give to twelve guests in attendance. Vermilion County Treasurer, Jo Anne Gerard, collected dues for the 2025 year.

A very nice luncheon meeting was had by all.

Diane Reddy, PR/CVH

There comes a moment when the silence between two people can have the purity of a diamond.

- Phillipe Dijan

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards



Hi, District 4,

Hope you had a great fall and look forward to the holidays. The 101st IAHCE Conference will be at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham

March 11 – 13, 2025. Watch for more information in the December IAHCE Chronicle or within the President packet that will be mailed to each County President around December 1st . Our next District Mini Meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia. Please mark your calendars, include the date in your planning. County officers, please watch for the invitation that will be sent in May.

I find it amazing to see the diversity of the counties within District 4. We are all different but, at the same time we all strive to achieve the IAHCE Mission Statement, Objectives, Aim of the Homemaker, and the Collect. I learn something new during each county visit and meet delightful, wonderful people.

Mark your calendars:

IAHCE 101 st Annual Conference, March 11 – 13, 2025 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

District 3 Mini Meeting–Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia.

District 3 and 4 August Workshop–Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at the West Salem Trinity Church in Mt. Vernon.

Look forward to seeing you all at the March 2025 Annual Conference.

Have a great Christmas Season,

Donna Richards, District 4 Director

Dear Diamond, we all know who really is a girls best friend. Sincerely yours, chocolate cake. - Unknown

You can't cry on a diamond's shoulder and diamond's wont keep you warm at night, but they're sure fun when the sun shines. - Elizabeth Taylor

Bond

Happy 80th Anniversary to All Current & Former BOND COUNTY HCE Members!

Over 120 BCHCE members, friends, & families joined us on October 12th to celebrate BCHCE's 80th Anniversary. That included over 80 descendants of our 320 charter members, who attended to represent their loved one(s).



After a delicious luncheon, the afternoon's program followed a format similar to that of the inaugural Bond County Home Bureau meeting on June 30, 1944 (at 8:30 PM!). We attempted to sing the same 3 songs that were sung at the 1944 meeting, but those high octaves about did us in. It was quite comical! Special recognition was given to charter members, members of 50+ years, past presidents and board members, U of I Extension Advisers, and Bond County Fair Food Stand founders and principal workers. A slideshow featuring 150 favorite/fun photos of our 80 years played during the event.

The Hall of Memories included 8 tables of memorabilia. We wanted to honor our charter members but couldn't initially name them. The 1944 program listed almost all of them as "Husband's Last Name, Mrs. Husband's First Name." We consulted community members and scoured the internet to find as many of our members' first names as we could and displayed THEIR full names with their initial 9 Township Units.

Oak, the symbol for 80th anniversaries, was reflected throughout the celebration by way of the name tags, attendance, centerpieces, and cupcake stands. Each attendee received a commemorative pack of sticky notes with our new, cute Oak Tree logo. John Donnell (of Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home) compiled our celebrations slideshow and surprised us buying everyone a copy. Twelve lucky attendees went home with some fun & fabulous door prizes, generously provided by local businesses.

Special thanks to the 80th Celebration Committee, who spent MANY hours planning, which included months of thumbing through 80 years of memorabilia to find the best-of-the-best for displays and collages. Members included Beverly Greenwood (Chair), Sherri Beckham, Carol Boatright, Carole Bohle, Sandy Dasenbrock, Sharon Fitzgerald, Carol Lingley, Mary Ann Plo in, Pat Su on, Janice Tompkins, Penny Wait, and Susie Wall.

Clinton

Clinton County had their 78th annual meeting. We donated \$1,000 dollars to our county Back Pack Program which brings food to school children on Fridays so they have food over the weekend to eat. We also had election of officers at our meeting with District Director, Donna Richards, swearing in the officers. We have a new board president, Lyn Sherman and thanked our out-going president, Kay Peters, for her many years to our organization. Other programs included an Elder Law program given by Brent Rickhoff on estate planning. We also helped our county fair with exhibit judging and help where needed in the exhibit building. Pictured is a representative from the Back Pack Program and our HCE president, Kay Peters, presenting a \$1,000 check to her.



Effingham

Effingham County HCE offered several programs these past couple of months. Cheri Burcham, our IAHCE– U OF I Liaison, spoke about the beautiful butterfly. They are known for being vibrant and fascinating creatures that grace our gardens and wild spaces. They like clover, dandelions, sap, milkweed, phlox, goldenrod, verbena, and rotten fruit. I just read about a Tallgrass Butterfly House in Pana. This butterfly habitat showcases native Illionis butterflies using a modest structure of metal hoops covered with netting. The house covers 2,600 square feet and is filled with larval and nectar plants. It might make an interesting day trip if you are looking for some place to go this fall.

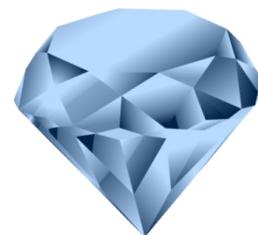
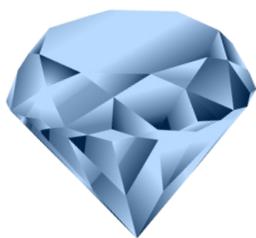
Father Dominic Garramone, The Bread Monk, was in Effingham showing his culinary expertise by demonstrating making scones. He has written nine cookbooks including his first children’s book, Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery to his newest book, Bake Your Way Through the Holidays. Board members made mint sconces to sample along wit the one he made. Fr. Dominic is pictured giving recipe instructions to our board president, Marilyn Schaefer.

A group of ladies met to make bags for shoeboxes for Operational Christmas Child. Two-hundred were made and more being worked on. These will be a useful, welcome addition to the shoeboxes.

HCE Unit of Teutopolis and St. Francis Unit served a meal to the Teutopolis Fire Department in appreciation for all the volunteer work the firemen do for the community. The meal consisted of pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, chips, angel food cake, pumpkin and apple pies, and delicious chocolate chip cookies, tea, and lemonade.



Meet the 2025 Effingham HCE Board: L-R: Pat Tappendorf, International/Community Outreach, Virginia Soltwedel, Cultural Enrichment, Mary Beth Hoene, Treasurer; Faye Pearson, Secretary; Nancy Hoene, 2nd Vice;



Fayette

Hello Everyone from Fayette County HCE!!!!

Well the month of July started off with the Bingham/Ramsey unit helping with breakfast at the Rehoboth Church Camp and helped the whole month of July with a breakfast each week. Then the Vandalia unit with a few from other units went to Greenville to the DeMoulin Museum, Marcoat Creamery, Milkhouse, and Kahuna's for lunch. A full day of learning was had by all that went. The units also helped with the Fayette County Fair by sitting in the women's building to help the fair board keep the building open for everyone to come in to see the projects that were done by community members young and old. The Bingham/Ramsey unit took an outing to Hillsboro. They started at the Black Rabbit Coffee Co. learning how they got started and the journey that they continue on. Then they were off to the Heartland Gallery where they made soap with Tori from Share the Soap, toured the Orpheu Theater, The Sweet Shop, and then ate lunch at the Red Rooster Inn, which they also toured. Next they viewed the Lincoln Statue and cannon, toured the Montgomery County Courthouse, Harkey House, and the Montgomery County Historical Society and Museum. They then took a ride to the country to view Hillsboro Stonehenge. Whew!! That was a rich and full day for the unit!

Then we jump right into August with the District Workshops in Effingham. With the Fayette County HCE units putting out some decorations. Lots of learning went on in this workshop about all things IAHCE (Theme of upcoming conference)! Then onto the county helping with Convoy at the Crossroads serving breakfast to all that were working so hard to make it a success for Make-A-Wish! Free will donations were asked for the breakfast and the money received was donated to Make-A-Wish. The month ended with a class on scones with Father Dominic, The Bread Monk, in Effingham. He shared so much knowledge about all things scones (yum) and dough and he sold some of his books and tools to help with making the dough. The day ended with a tasting of some goodies he prepared. Yum!

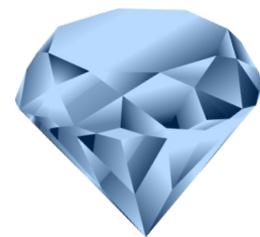
Now we are onto the month of September. Time sure goes by quickly! The Bingham/Ramsey Unit went to Casey to see all the BIG things. They started their journey with the GIANT pitchfork and lunch at a barn that had been converted into a restaurant called Richards Farm. We saw all of the big items that were available to see including the giant teeter totter, wind chime, rocking chair, knitting needles, key, barber pole, mailbox, wooden shoes, swizzle spoon, puzzle, ear of corn, rocking horse, jigsaw puzzle, miner, yardstick, piggy bank, bookworm, mouse trap, pacman game, pencil, pokemon ball, ice cream cone, bird cage, taco, minion, spinning top, wooden token, antlers, toy airplane, softball bat, and golf tee. The county had a class making mini barn quilts with Amy Rogier and her helper Emily McDowell, from Madison County, with several attending the class from all units. Everyone did such a great job.

We had some exciting news of the largest steam locomotive called Big Boy 4014 going through the town of Nokomis. What a sight to see. History in the making!

Fayette County HCE International Night was a huge success with our one and only IAHCE President, Angela Hicks with her husband Steve, speaking on all things Malaysia. What a great night and a delicious potluck meal to start the evening.

Well that was a busy quarter of learning and getting out and seeing what this world has to offer. Keep up the good work everyone! Boy how these months go by so quickly! We sure know how to keep Hattie Claire busy and on the move! I'm looking forward to seeing what is next over the next few months with being Thankful at Thanksgiving and Celebrating Jesus' Birthday! Hug your family and hold them close! Turn your waiting room into a classroom! Blessings to all!





Madison

Madison County HCE ladies continue to be crafty. We had a summer craft workshop, a fall workshop, a Halloween workshop, and our getting ready to have a holiday workshop. We also hosted many barn quilt classes, wood project classes, and cork clubs, in which guests get to sample wine, eat yummy foods that pair well with the wine, and make a cute craft out of wine corks. So far we have gained two new members this year with our cork club, but we have had over a dozen non-members participate.

A group of ladies attended the Illinois Homemakers Camp for the first time this October. It was a fun weekend of making things and the weather was perfect.

Also this fall, we had our Children's Tea, International Night, and are gearing up for our Christmas in November, to be held on November 14th. The theme for the evening is "Cookies with Santa" and each unit is to provide centerpieces of Christmas cookies or cookie related items. This is always a fun event of raffle basket giveaways, silent auction, a secret bid auction, and dinner catered by Sundae's Best.

As the new year approaches, we are gearing up for our 4th Annual Craft Camp, February 28th-March 2nd, 2025. The theme is kitchen crafts and participants will be making nine crafts. The camp is held in Mulberry Grove. For more information you can email Emily at emhohl@gmail.com. We welcome members and non-members!

From our county to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Richland

Richland County Homemakers believes in community service. Their Family and Community Issues Chairman, Carol Diel, organized a project for the year working with the group SWAN (Stopping Women from Abuse Now). Members received literature to be more informed about the organization and what could be done to help. SWAN's purpose is to shelter, protect, advocate, and aid adult victims of abuse, neglect, and homelessness. The organization provides housing in Olney for victims of domestic violence and homelessness. Over a sixteen county area in eight offices, the staff offers information and aid for seniors and persons with disabilities, order of protection aid, and support groups for surviving women. Abuse happens to all types of people and SWAN is there to help. Richland County HEA collected \$1500 worth of items over three months as well as monetary donations to help support SWAN.



Richland County HEA held their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 2nd, at the Olney City Community Building. Sunny weather and a variety of items met the 150 plus people who attended. The day was filled with drawings and raffles, the sales of cinnamon rolls and fried chicken. HEA received multiple donations to make the event possible. Donations are greatly appreciated. This year's prizes included Grand Ol Opry tickets, restaurant gift cards, a tire rotation, and a subscription to the local newspaper.

Richland County HEA will be having their International program on November 12th at 5:30 p.m. IAHCE President Angela Hicks, will present on her trip to Malaysia.



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms

Welcome to the end of the year! Can you believe that 2024 is almost over?? What a great time it has been celebrating the centennial year of IAHCE. It's been a lot of fun wearing my blinged-out denim jacket and seeing all of your "diamond" décor at your annual meetings and events.



I have certainly been looking forward to 2025 and the Make Time conference. The planning is going smoothly, and I think we have great speakers and share shops lined up for your entertainment and knowledge. This issue of The Chronicle includes the preconference insert, so you can check it all out and make your plans. I certainly hope you will Make Time to attend the conference!

As we end the year, note these reminders:

1. Total up those volunteer hours, both for HCE and other volunteer opportunities; we need both totals. Hopefully your CVH person has given you a form to record your hours that you can turn in.
2. Education directors should be putting the final touches on their award applications. Hopefully you have them done already and are ready to get them in the mail.
3. There is a change in the end of year procedures for treasurers and 2 nd VP's. County treasurers and 2 nd vice presidents must get together to confirm your membership numbers, and the treasurers are sending one end of year form with the dues to Melissa Chitwood, state treasurer. Melissa will send the membership numbers to the state 2 nd VP, Mary Johnson.
4. The new deadline for dues, reports, education awards, and cultural enrichment entries is JANUARY 5. Conference registration deadline is still January 31.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and Happy New Year! See you in March!

Hamilton

The Hamilton County HCE hosted a Cultural Arts show during the Fall Festival in Mcleansboro on September 5 th and 6 th . It was open to the public, youth and adults. There were several categories including Photography, Arts and Crafts, Paintings/Drawings, Quilts, Any Other Knit or Crochet, and All Other Handwork. Participants could enter as many exhibits as they desired. It had to have been created in the last year.

The projects were exhibited in the basement of the Hamilton County courthouse. The public was able to tour and view the exhibits during the Fall Festival. HCE Board members helped by volunteering to sit with the exhibits during the viewing time. There was a total of 111 participants (12 adults and 99 youth) with 138 exhibits in 11 categories. The local 3 rd grades classes were given the materials to create a 9-block quilt with fabric, glue and construction paper. Their contributions brought a new crowd to the Cultural Arts Show. Troy Mayberry was our gracious judge this year. Each category had a Best of Show and a top 3. This is our largest turnout to date, and we are hopeful we can see even more participation next year!

Jennifer Rister

Jefferson

Farm Breau so graciously allows our board to use their meeting room each month and for special lessons. Jefferson County helped serve refreshments for the Run for the Wall at the MT. Vernon Airport. Hundreds of motorcycles had a rest stop and lunch on their way to Washington, DC. Several lap quilts and two boxes of magazines were take to Countryside nursing home. Hattie Claire and Donna delivered lunch foods to Youth Build. Then we had a fun day at Veterans Park, with hotdogs and BBQ. Many came, played games, yard games and socialized. Six attended Mini District Meeting at Pinckneyville and Hattie Claire welcomed us. Many members have crocheted blankets, layettes and help assemble the layettes for Holy Sews. Layettes for the babies that did not make it.

Some members are still delivering "Meals on Wheels" each week. This provides a meal for those unable to feed themselves. We cooperated with the 4-H Foundation by donating cookies, rice Krispie treats, brownies for the 4-H BBQ at Veteran's Park. Several members helped to serve the luncheon. Seven Board members traveled to Effingham for District 5-6 Meeting. WE learned we are now in District 4, new guidelines for Educational Awards, and theme for 2025.

Twelve members visited the new State of art Police Station for Mt. Vernon, Il. They have much more room, division for narcotics, detective division, patrol, finger printing, locker rooms, even a room for mothers on the police force and where the vehicle for the swat team and command post are. Belle Rive unit at the community building. A Very successful Yard Sale took place on Sept 27-28th . One of our money raisers. Many people found treasures to take home. Food stand and Hattie welcomed everyone to free coffee.

In September our lesson for the month was visiting Family Life Homeless Shelter. They had requested paper products and our members came thru. They accept homeless and give them life skills, help them obtain driver licenses, look for work, Residents are allowed tp stay 4 weeks, 2 months or 6 months depending on their needs. Some times longer. They have classes to learn life skills and bible classes as this is a church also. Hattie was impressed.

HCE WEEK Oct. 13-19th I asked and we got a newspaper article .Hurrah!!!!!! November 8th will be our 82nd Annual Meeting. Holy Sews, an organization that shows compassion to families experiencing miscarriage or still births will have a presentation. Many members have helped make blankets, layettes help package and do whatever necessary to help send off. In 2024 1459 layettes shipped by Southern Illinois Chapter, WE are collecting food and paper products for the food pantry.



Massac

Visit to Ashmore- Seventeen members and guests attended a trip to Princeton, KY, on August 3, to visit Ashmore and eat at Adam's Breezy Hills Farms. Everyone enjoyed the tour and the food. We are making plans for another trip in 2025. If you have some interesting ideas, please share them with your council member.

Massac County HCE International Night was held on September 12 at Faith Lutheran Church. The country of study was Malaysia. A potluck meal that represented the country was enjoyed by all. The guest speaker was Jane Chapman, National Volunteer Outreach Network, (NVON) President and past IAHCE President, who attended the conference in Malaysia in 2023. Jane made our visit to Malaysia fun, interesting and enjoyable.

September – "Labor of Love Cards" – Thank you to the units for making the cards, we prepared 228 for the care facilities in the county. A word search puzzle and a piece of candy was added with the cards.

October 14-18 – HCE Week: Three gift baskets were given away after one of the owners of Big John's drew the names of the winners. They were: Emilee Hunt the large basket, Lisa Blair the Picnic basket, and Janis Bradford the bath basket. We had good participation from members and the community. We passed out a few lessons at the table and were able to visit with a few people who didn't know what HCE was all about. Thank you to all the members who sold tickets, collected gift cards and items for the baskets, and Dorothy Holt and her committee for putting this all together. This year we delivered Thank You Letters personally to each of the business that gave toward the baskets.

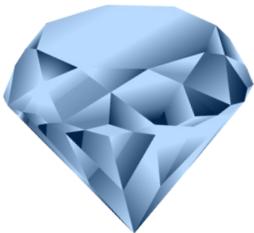
Our Sympathy and prayers go to the family of Janet Sue Powell Maggio. Janet has been an active member of the Town & Country Unit for many years. She previously served on the scholarship committee for HCE and for DAR through the years and to the family of Jeannie Forthman. Jeannie was a member of New Frontiers Unit for 48 years. She served on the council and active in her church for many years.



Cards of Love preparing



Summer Trip to Ashmore,
Prinston, KY.



Monroe

Monroe County HCE has had a busy fall. In honor of HCE WEEK, “Hattie Claire” shared 325 new and gently used books with children in need. Books were delivered to Children’s First Learning Center in Columbia, Innovations Early Childhood Center in Waterloo, Uni-Pres Kindercottage in East St. Louis, and the Little Free Library at Zimmer Park in Waterloo. Children were invited to choose books to take home, encouraging them to discover the magic of reading.

We also did a Thanksgiving Blessings Project in which donations of food and monetary gifts were donated to the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service. HNS shared over 200 Thanksgiving dinner baskets this year. Recipients were families in need from Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker, and Prairie du Rocher.



Perry

IAHCE Perry County HCE Fall 2024 Update

* In August we had our big yard sale at the Thresherman Association show raising funds for our scholarships and other activities.

* The Quilt Block Party unit recently completed several lap quilts for Veterans at Jefferson Barracks.

* We celebrated HCE Week by presenting 80 Kindness Bags for Farmers that were distributed by area grain elevators, tractor parts and feed stores. The packets included stress and mental health information, first aid kits, stress “ball” tractors, snacks, and more. (Pictured is HCE member Carolyn Bathon presenting bags to K. Baker at the Pinckneyville Consolidated Grain Elevator, one of the distribution points.)

*A county group meeting was held on October 16 th which focused on “An Apple a Day”. There were presentations on Mindful and Healthy Eating, Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention, and also Wreaths Across America. There 32 attendees, guest speakers, lots of fun, lessons, tastings, laughing, stress relief, and lunch.

*Pinckneyville had its Mardi Gras flea market and nighttime parade on October 26 th . Our booth at the flea market was a huge success handing out Perry County HCE promotional bags, chip clips, pens, mental health awareness information and flyers for our upcoming events.

* The Perry County HCE along with the Perry County 4-H, Pinckneyville Garden Club and Perry County Master Gardeners are holding a “PUMPKIN SMASH”. The “Smash” will be on November 11 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The event will take place at the south-west corner of the Perry County Fairgrounds near the Thresherman Museum. Instead of throwing your pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns into the garbage which fills up the landfills, please bring them to this FREE event for all ages. Bring the pumpkins, participate in the smashing, and have a great time. See who can toss them the furthest, hit a target and more. The remains will go to plant a pumpkin patch. There will also be trailers for pumpkins after Halloween at the Pinckneyville Community Center and the Thresherman Museum.



* The Annual Holiday Idea Day will be held at St. Paul’s UCC in Pinckneyville on Wednesday, November 13th , which is also World Kindness Day. The event is free but a donation to “I Support the Girls” will be gladly accepted. The winner of the Quilt raffle will be drawn that day.



Randolph

Several events were held by the Randolph County Board. The public was invited to attend a fall event that featured Jane Chapman presenting her lesson on Environmental Wellness and Kelly Doiron, a local jeweler, who spoke about diamonds and the care of jewelry. The annual meeting was held on October 17, starting with a luncheon at noon. The featured speaker was our own Janel Kassing, IAHCE International Chair, who told about her experience in Malaysia. Certificates were awarded to those who earned them for their volunteer hours.

During the meeting, a Farm Family of the Year was announced This year the honor was granted to Cedar Hill Farms of Red Bud which is owned by Kevin and Kathy Liefer and their children, Kirk and Stephanie, Kent and Karen, Kara and Ray and Kristopher and Danielle, who all reside in the Red Bud area. The farming operation was begun by the late Ralph and Nina Liefer. As the farm grew over the years, it allowed three generations to work together.

The family all attends St. John's Lutheran Church and School where they are active in one way or another. While the farming operation requires most of their time, the family knows the importance of being involved within the community and organizations. The family believes in diversification within their operations, as it is important to have outside interests.

One of their outside interest was starting Lieferbrau Brewery which opened its doors in 2018. It was an opportunity to bring all the siblings and their spouses together to run a a new enterprise. This was a new endeavor for everyone, with a learning curve of what it all entails to run a brewery. It allowed the family

to be involved and still be a part of the farming operation.

The Liefer family has found ways to encourage individual growth for all its family members. With the next generation already looking at what is next, discussions are already happening at ways to involve them within the farming operation or brewery. The members of the Red Bud Nite Unit again decorated a lamp post as part of the contest held annually in Red Bud.



FARM FAMILY ANNOUNCED==At its annual meeting on October 17 honored the Liefer Family of Red Bud as its Farm Family of the Year. Donna Wetzel, Family and Community Issues Chair, congratulates Stephanie Liefer who represented the family for the honor.



Decorated lamp post

White

White County H.C.E. Has many opportunities to make a difference this year, in our community and in other communities around us who needed our help and inspiration. Our September lesson was The Power Of Apple Cider Vinegar and Raw unfiltered Honey. Our October International Day Maylasian Foods. Several recipes were made by our members and voted on. The money collected went to Coins for Cancer.

We had a special guest speaker Janel Kassing our International State Director, she had interesting stories and films of her trip to Maylasia. Our lesson for October was pies and cobblers. Our fundraiser for November is Chicken and Dumplings .We have plans at the end of November for White County H.C.E. day to ring the Salvation Army Bucket. Our members donated food items and took them to our Local Food Pantry. We took boxes of snacks to Our Veteran Honor Flight There was 2 local veterans on that flight. We are now planning a Christmas Bag for 24 White County Nursing Home veterans. We took boxes of warm coats and blankets and personal items to Lucas Place for 27 Homeless Veterans, we took Boxes of food and clothing to Heavens Gate in Marion.Ill.

I am proud to say we in White County H.C.E. Have been working to make a difference for the needy, the lonely. And the poor by helping those who have no way to a doctor or to purchase food or just be a friend to talk to. As we go through some rough times ourselves as we get older, we will keep the faith and determination to continue our mission as H.C.E. White County Members still making a difference in the lives of those who need us. Thanks for all members who worked to makes these things happen for our needy.

Fran Matheny, H.C.E. Public Relations

A real diamond is never perfect. - Unknown

Williamson



Williamson County HCE had a presentation on Texas. Jesse McPherson was the speaker.



IAHCE BOARD CANDIDATES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The IAHCE Nominating Committee interviewed potential candidates for the IAHCE Board on October 20, 2024. The following individuals will be placed on the ballot for election at the 2025 IAHCE Annual Conference Business Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Alice Grooms of DeWitt County – Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Hello fellow IAHCE members. I am Alice Grooms from Clinton, Illinois. I am an applicant for the position of 2nd Vice on the board. I have been a post box member and then an active member of HCE since I moved back home in 2000. I grew up in Home Bureau and heard all about my parent's travels to various places for different meetings and conferences throughout the 30 years I was away from home. Since I have been a member myself, I have also traveled to various places for different meetings and conferences. So being the 2nd Vice of IAHCE and in charge of our membership is very important to me, because having members for our next 100 years is very important to our organization. I have served on the state board as the CVH/Sales Director in the past and have performed the 1st Vice and International offices in my county. Outside of HCE I am active in my church and a couple quilt clubs having served in various positions on both of these organizations as well. I am also still working part-time as a nurse caregiver in my community. I have 2 grown sons and 4 feline friends that keep me company.



Darlene Curry of Tazewell County – Candidate for Secretary

I am responsible for, only, myself. My husband, my parents, and my in-laws are no longer living and my children are grown, so I feel that this is the time that I can dedicate to a state office. I retired after serving 35 years as a school secretary. I have served as secretary for several organizations in the past – 4-H Youth Council, County Extension Council, State 4-H Leader Conference planning committee, and various times I have taken minutes when the secretary is absent from a meeting. I have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. My mother gave me a hard time about not going back to school, so when I retired, I did. I received an Associate's Degree in General Studies in 2020. I have served on Tazewell County HCE's board as Public Relations, CVH and Treasurer. In addition, I also serve on the IAHCE Support Fund Advisory Committee. In the past I have served as Chairman of the Tazewell County Extension Foundation for over 10 years and Tazewell County Fair Queen Pageant Director for over 40 years. In the past, Extension offered a leadership conference (comprised of 13 north and central states) for 4-H leaders.



(Darlene Curry of Tazewell County – Candidate for Secretary – Continued)

When Illinois hosted the North Central Leadership Forum in 2003, I served as chairman of the conference. In the village of Green Valley, where I live, I served as chairman of our Quasiquicentennial in 1997 and chairman of the Sesquicentennial in 2022.

Carla Meyer of Stephenson County – Candidate for Secretary

I am a widow and have 2 grown sons and 5 grandchildren. I am retired after working 35 years for the USDA-Farm Service Agency. I have been active in Stephenson County HCE for 44 years and I am the current HCE County Board President. I have also served as Secretary, Family Issues, Ways and Means and have been acting as editor of the County HCE Newsletter for 16 years. I am the President of my HCE unit and have also served as secretary. I am also involved with the Stephenson County Fair Association and serving as the Secretary of the board of directors. In my spare time I enjoy doing crossword puzzles, reading and spending time with family. I look forward to serving as the IAHCE Secretary.



Becky Belcher of Hamilton County – Candidate for Cultural Enrichment Director

I have learned so much in my first term as Cultural Enrichment Director, and I am excited to continue working with the board to serve the members of IAHCE in a second term. One of my main goals is to make some positive changes to the Cultural Arts categories list, ensuring that we are staying relevant and showcasing a diverse range of talent and creativity. Additionally, I am eager to establish better communication with the counties by implementing an email newsletter to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and opportunities I also hope to bring fresh ideas for lessons and projects that will inspire our members and help them grow as leaders and individuals. Together, we can continue to promote and celebrate the rich cultural heritage within our communities and across our state.



Vivian Gerrietts of Tazewell County – Candidate for Family and Community Issues Director

Vivian Gerrietts is a 44 year member of the Mop n Go (charter member) Unit of Tazewell County HCE. Being on the state board will fulfill a bucket list activity to serve my organization in a situation beyond the local and county levels. I firmly believe in the education aspect of our organization. And the home and community is the ideal grassroots place to focus. The ACWW and NVON and our own State IAHCE board have great ideas in place to share with our units, homes and communities. I would also listen to my state board colleagues, work with the IAHCE First Vice President leading the educational arm and the county Home and Family Issues Directors to learn what is important in their county, implement and inform our membership of the initiatives already in place and introduce those ideas we might decide to develop.



Dorothy Holt of Massac County – Candidate for Family and Community Issues Director

My name is Dorothy Holt, and I am from Metropolis. If you were to ask me who I am, I would say I'm a born again Christian, wife, mother, grandmother, army brat, and a two-time breast cancer survivor! I graduated from Metropolis Community High School, class of '79. I then married in 1980 to my husband Jim, and have been happily for 44 years. We have two children and 5 grandchildren. I homeschooled a daughter and son for 14+ years. I've been a IAHCE member for 30 years. I served as treasurer and was promoted to president of my unit for many years. As well as this, I am the vice president for Massac County, and served as President in place of Norma Korte while she served on the state board. Serving on State board is something I have been interested in for a long time. Homeschooling my children, I spent many hours planning activities, lessons, and events. As well as this, I served as a Massac County Girl Scout troop leader for several years. I was a trainer, as well as the cookie chair for the county and my unit, and a mentor for troops that needed extra help. I had to plan activities for the girls to earn badges and oversaw their progress and kept records of their accomplishments. On top of functions in my troop, I also planned events for all Southern Illinois troops. I believe this would help me serve in the office of Family and Community issues as I have several ideas for and have had experience with making lesson plans. In any organization, events, and other functions, I'm active, devoted, and I give it my all. If I'm going to do it, I believe in giving it my best. I'm ready to serve IAHCE's state level.



Becky Thomas of Stephenson County – Candidate for Family and Community Issues Director

Hello HCE Members, My name is Becky Thomas and I am applying for Education Committee Family / Community Issues. I am interested in this position because of the many various projects that all of Illinois County HCE's do throughout the state. I feel that these projects should be recognized and shared with each other. I appreciate hard work and it amazes me how successful your county projects can be. Some of them have become yearly projects that your communities can rely on. I feel that encouraging Counties to set goals and objectives to do a project but also to follow up with evaluations and reports would give the County satisfaction and pride in themselves. We all should recognize good work when we see it.

I am married to Jeff for 35 years, raised two sons and a daughter and have 3 grandchildren. I am a hospital housekeeper with 45 years of experience. I was born and raised in Northwest Illinois and have been around HCE in some way or another from Grandma Marie on down. I am active in Stephenson County HCE Board and was District 1 Director 2017 to 2023. My father should be added to the list of responsibilities as he is still at home and we are trying to keep him there as I am sure many of you might be in this position too. Thank you for your consideration.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Melissa Chitwood (Chair), Mary Johnson, Becky Belcher, Ashley Davis and Carol Harms

Important Dates to Remember

IAHCE 101ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 11-13th 2025—Thelma Keller Convention Center,
Effingham

NVON (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK) CONFERENCE

July 7th-11th, 2025— Springfield, Illinois

ACWW USA (ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD) MEETING

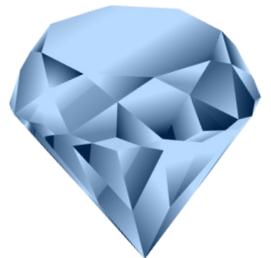
July 21-24th, 2025— Erlanger, Kentucky

IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

August 5th, 2025— Districts 3 and 4, Mt. Vernon

August 6th, 2025— District 2, Springfield

August 7th, 2025— District 1, Sycamore



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