

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

IAHCE 102nd ANNUAL

CONFERENCE

MARCH 17-19, 2026

THELMA KELLER CONVENTION CENTER, EFFINGHAM



COPY PAGES AS NEEDED

IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There is something magical about experiencing an IAHCE conference! I look forward to this time every year and am beyond excited to share that magic with you in 2026! You are invited to join us for the 2026 Conference, *Experience the Magic - IAHCE 2026!* The conference is scheduled for March 17-19 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. We hope you will come experience all the magic that is involved in this information-filled and fun conference.

This year we are keeping some of the exciting things we've done for years, but adding some new things such as our first ever Puzzle Race after one of our evening meals. You'll hear some magical speakers and enjoy some magical entertainment so be sure to come share the experience with all of your friends. It will be a time to see what is so magical about IAHCE and attending an IAHCE conference (if you haven't done so before).

In this section of your newsletter, you will find information about hotels, registration, Share Shops, games, Make It –Take It, and entertainment. Of course, if you have additional questions, feel free to contact us at any time. (Emily 618-830-9610 or Becky 618-308-0042)



We are honored to invite you to attend this conference and look forward to making magical memories with you!

Emily McDowell and Becky Belcher

2026 Conference Chair and Co-Chair



CONFERENCE BEGINS TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026



Opening session will begin at 10:30 a.m.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: A registration fee of \$230.00 will cover the full 3-day conference which includes three lunches, two dinners and your share shops. A complimentary continental breakfast will be available in the conference center. The Full Day (Tuesday OR Wednesday) Package, includes registration, lunch, share shops, and dinner at a cost of \$150.00; the Daytime (Tuesday or Wednesday) Package includes lunch and share shops for \$125.00; Elsie Mies Banquet ONLY will be \$75.00. You must be registered to attend any share shop and meals. This registration information is also on the website at: www.iahce.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: You must mail your completed registration form postmarked by **January 31, 2026**, to **Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Heath, IL 61884**. You may register at conference but you may risk not being able to attend the share shop of your choice and/or meals may be different.

LATE REGISTRATION: There will be an additional \$15.00 charge per person purchasing the 3-day package and \$10.00 charge for a one-day package if registration is postmarked after the deadline of **January 31, 2026**.

REFUNDS: Registration is transferable, not refundable.

WALK-IN REGISTRANTS: Walk-ins must register upon arrival, pay fees, including the late registration fee and select an available share shop. Since some share shops are limited, walk-ins run the risk of a desired class being full and/or lack of handouts being available. Pre-registration is advised.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, 7:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, and 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 18. **A President or designated person should register and pick up packets for ALL attendees from that county.**

MEALS: Three lunches and two dinners are included in the 3-day registration package. A complimentary continental breakfast will be available in the conference center. Attendees who need special meals must note it on the registration form. *Special dietary requests apply for all conference meals.*

Tuesday Lunch: Doors open at 10:15 a.m. for lunch. The opening ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday Dinner / Awards Banquet: Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, with the program starting at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Lunch: Doors open at 12:15 p.m. for lunch. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Donations for the Friendship Projects Fund will be collected during lunch.

For one time only during the conference, there will be reserved seating according to randomly assigned table numbers. This will allow all of us to meet people from across the state to share ideas and experiences.

Wednesday Dinner / Elsie Mies Banquet: Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the program begins at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The attire for this evening is “dressy.” It is a special night! There will be Reserved seating for: **County of the Year**

Thursday Lunch: Box lunches with a drink will be available at 11:30 a.m. at the conclusion of the Closing Session.

BANNERS: The county banners will be displayed in the banquet room during the conference. **Don't forget to bring a display stand for your banner.** Banners may be picked up after the Wednesday banquet or Thursday morning.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS: Exhibit items should be delivered on Monday, March 16, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. or Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Pick up on Thursday morning 7:30-8:15 and 11:30-noon (Items must be picked up by noon). Counties are limited to eight (8) items, of which one (1) may be a quilt. Also, no more than four entries per person. Please send your registration for Cultural Enrichment items and Educational Displays **postmarked by January 5, 2026** to: **Becky Belcher, 8682 CR 1600 E, McLeansboro, IL 62859.** Educational displays should also be delivered at the same time as exhibit items.

SILENT AUCTION: Counties are asked to donate one or more items, valued at a minimum of **\$5.00**. Please register your items either Monday evening March 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or Tuesday, March 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. with the Silent Auction committee. Remember to bring GOOD quality items - items that you would want. Especially popular are handcrafted items, original and unusual items, and theme baskets. The number on your name tag will be your bidding number. Those who win items should pick them up on Thursday, March 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. or 11:30-noon (Items must be picked up by noon).

VOTING DELEGATES: Delegates are selected as per instructions in the IAHCE Bylaws. There is a place on the registration form to mark if you are a voting delegate. Voting delegate forms and instructions will be included in the Preconference Packet sent to the county presidents in December. Send names of delegates to IAHCE Secretary, **Carla Meyer, 6526 S Crones Grove Road, Baileyville, IL 61007.**

SUPPORT FUND and EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS: will be set up in the Hospitality Room.

PHOTO OP: Group photos are a great way to promote HCE on social media and in your local newspaper. We will provide a backdrop for group photos in the Hospitality Room.

EDUCATION AWARD BOOKS: All education books/folders will be returned to you in the District Meetings. **Please leave the Grand Award reports on display until 9:00 PM Wednesday evening.**

MAKE-IT & TAKE-IT – There will be at least one make-it & take-it share shop per session. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay with conference registration.

THURSDAY CLOSING CEREMONY – Guest speaker, Dawn Morris, South and West Central Illinois Executive Director for the Illinois American Red Cross, will be speaking during our closing ceremony.

EVALUATION FORMS: **Please take time to fill out the conference evaluation form in the back of your program book. These forms are a valuable asset in planning next year's conference.**

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Theme dress attire is NOT required, however participation is encouraged!



Tuesday, March 17

- ***Opening session/lunch – “Experience the Magic” of Green***
No St. Patrick’s Day would be complete without green apparel! Wear green all over or just enough to not be pinched.
- ***Dinner – “Experience the Magic” of Green and Gold***
You’ll already have your green on, but why not add some gold to your ensemble? Who will win the gold at our awards ceremony? It’s all waiting for you this evening!

Wednesday, March 18

- ***Elsie Mies Lunch – “Experience the Magic” of HCE Spirit***
We had a blast last year showing off our HCE apparel so we are encouraging you to do so again this year. From pins to tees, show off how you experience the magic of HCE!
- ***Elsie Mies Banquet – “Experience the Magic of Bright Colors”***
Let’s fill the room with our bright dressy apparel. From bright pinks to bright yellow, the sky is the limit to the bright colors we might see in a room full of HCE ladies.

Thursday, March 19

- ***Closing Session – “Experience the Magic” of What’s to Come***
As we say goodbye we will reflect on all we have learned at conference. The door is just opening to the possibilities in store for us for the rest of the year. With that being said, wear something that makes you feel magical. Maybe it’s a simple bracelet that your spouse bought you, a pair of earrings that make you feel like a million bucks, or your favorite suede skirt, boots, etc. You can share with your lunch table what piece you chose and why.

Conference Activities

The **SCAVENGER HUNT** will start first thing on Tuesday morning, and you will have until the last share shop ends on Wednesday afternoon to finish up your answers! Prizes will still be awarded to some winners. See more details once you arrive!

BINGO AND GAMES will be offered after festivities conclude on Tuesday evening. Please bring \$1 prizes or \$1 bills to the Bingo room. We will be playing Card Bingo again this year, so come prepared! If you don’t know how to play, no worries! We will teach you. Board games, crosswords, puzzles, and other game type fun will be an option this year too. If you just come to relax, there will be plenty of options or you can just watch others play. There is no cost for games. Bring your own games for additional fun!

The new game craze, a **PUZZLE RACE** is hitting up our IAHCE Conference this year! Join us Wednesday evening after our banquet. Teams will compete against others in a race to see who completes their puzzle first. Each team will consist of four players unless participation warrants a different number. Each team will receive the same puzzle to complete. The team that completes all pieces of their puzzle the quickest, will be awarded prizes. Each team can participate with their \$10 donation (that is just \$2.50 per person!) This money will assist in the total cost of the conference.

IAHCE MEMBER MARKET

Vendors are back with a twist! This year we have brought back a few select vendors for your shopping pleasure. Rather than a whole room full of vendors, a limited number of vendors will be in the conference lobby towards the registration tables. These vendors have been hand-picked by the state board and are currently active IAHCE members. You'll be excited to shop with some of your all-time conference vendor favorites including Voss Pecans and Mari-Mann Herbs.

Cozy Couch Club

We are trying another new thing this year! Do you like to read? Join us for our in-person start to the IAHCE Book Club! Led by Kathy Peterson, you will be able to choose between three different books to discuss at the conference Wednesday evening after the banquet. You can read one book or all three! Kathy will have a list of discussion questions and provide snacks. Wear comfy clothes if you wish!

You've Got Mail!

Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to get ahold of some of the officers while you are at conference? Sometimes you just have a quick comment to make or a quick question you need answered. This year we are trying something new with our ways of getting in touch with you! Inside the breakfast/hospitality room there will be a mailbox and bulletin board as well as a small counter filled with notepads, sticky notes, notecards, etc. If you have a question for one of our state board members, simply fill out one of the sticky notes, notepads, or cards and write the officers name on it somewhere, drop it in the mailbox, and await your response which will be tacked to the bulletin board. Officers will periodically check the mail and deliver to other officers so you don't have to find them. When the officer has a chance to reply, they will drop off their reply to you on the bulletin board in the hospitality room with your name on it.

County Conference Opportunities

Wednesday Lunch Table Centerpiece

This year we are asking each county to provide a book themed centerpiece for our Wednesday luncheon. Each centerpiece should measure no more than 13" wide on all sides and be no higher than 12" tall. You can choose the theme of your table whether romance, comedy, non-fiction, fiction, Biblical/religious, legends and lore, fantasy, sci-fi, eclectic, etc. These will be on display in the lobby for the duration of conference (minus our luncheon) and will be voted on. Please bring your loose change or bills to bid on your favorite centerpieces.

Table Favors

Every year we have gracious counties that offer to provide table favors. Many times we do not know what these are but they magically appear at conference for us to put out on the tables. If your county would like to assist, please contact the conference chairs, Emily McDowell or Becky Belcher for assistance. There are a few things we currently need help with. We will give you more details once you contact us.

Make-It & Take-It

Tuesday, March 17th - 2:15p.m. to 3:15p.m.

It's a Friendship Thing - Take the time to make a gift for a friend. This is an 8 x 10 art poster made with paper, glue, and buttons with a couple of embellishments. Time to use your creativity as well! Choose between two sayings- the one pictured and "True friends are never apart, maybe in distance but never in heart." Cost is \$7.00 All supplies are furnished. Limited to 15 participants.



Tuesday, March 17th - 3:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.

Magical Sparkling Dragonflies - Make this adorable dragonfly using a whisk and glass beads. All supplies are furnished. \$6.00. Limited to 20 participants.



Pincushions - Using teacups and saucers, crafters will make a pincushion. You can use a mug or small jar.

Bring your own teacup or mug. Fabric and glue will be furnished as well as small jars/lids, if preferred. No cost. Limited to 15 participants.



Wednesday, March 18th - 2:45p.m. to 3:45p.m.

Scorch Marker Cutting Boards - You will use stencils and scorch markers to burn your designs right into a cutting board. Choose from a variety of sayings and designs. All supplies will be furnished. Cost is \$15. Limited to 15 participants. Please note, you will be outside for a portion of this class. Jackets



encouraged if cold.

Wednesday, March 18th - 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Succulents - In this class you will learn a little about succulents and then pick out one to take home in your very own custom-made container. Cost is \$5.00. Limited to 20 participants.



Hand Sewn Easter Cards - Attendees will create two sewing greeting cards including a cross with flowers, and an Easter bunny. All materials will be furnished but please bring a small scissors. Cost is \$6.00. Limited to 20 participants.

Monday, March 16, 2026

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Conference Registration Opens
Enter Cultural Enrichment Items
Register Silent Auction Items
Check in Banners and Book Centerpieces

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Conference Registration Open
Enter Cultural Enrichment Items
Register Silent Auction Items
Check in Banners and Book Centerpieces
Scavenger Hunt begins

10:30 a.m. Opening Session (Doors open at 10:15 a.m. and lunch is served at 11:30)

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Officer meetings: President, 2ND Vice President, International, Cultural Enrichment

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Share Shops

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Share Shops

1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The following areas will be open:
Cultural Enrichment
Silent Auction (with Sales/Newsletter and Pot of Gold)

4:45 p.m. Support Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m. Awards Banquet (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

After Awards Card Bingo and Games
The following areas will be open for 1 hour after the awards banquet:
Cultural Enrichment
Silent Auction (with Sales/Newsletter and Pot of Gold)



Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Conference Registration Open

7:30 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. Voting Delegates Check-in

8:30 a.m. Business Meeting

12:15 p.m. Elsie Mies lunch (Doors open at 12:00 p.m.)

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Officer meetings: 1st Vice President, Public Relations and CVH, Family & Community Issues, Secretary & Treasurer

1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cultural Enrichment open; **Voting ends at 4:00 p.m.** and will be closed until after the banquet
Silent Auction, Sales, and Newsletter Subscription open; **Bidding ends at 4:00 p.m.**
Scavenger Hunt; Ends at 4:00 p.m.

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Share Shops

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Share Shops

6:15 p.m. Elsie Mies Banquet (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

After Banquet Cultural Enrichment will be open for 1 hour after the Elsie Mies Banquet
Puzzle Race and Cozy Couch Club

Thursday, March 19, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Pick-up Cultural Enrichment Items
Pick-up Silent Auction Items

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. District Meetings

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Closing Ceremony (Doors open at 9:45 a.m.)

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pick-up Silent Auction Items (ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP BY NOON)
Pick up Cultural Enrichment Items (ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP BY NOON)

Boxed lunches available immediately following the Closing Ceremony until 12:00 p.m.



HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY SHARE SHOPS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH - 1:15-2:00 P.M.

1. Presidents Officer Meeting with Angela Hicks
2. 2nd Vice President Officer Meeting with Alice Grooms
3. International Officer Meeting with Janel Kassing
4. Cultural Enrichment Officer Meeting with Becky Belcher

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH - 2:15-3:15 P.M.

5. The Oscar Mayer Weinermobile - Amber Johnson

Amber Johnson will take you on a spirited ride through the history of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. She'll share fun facts about the six Wienermobiles touring the country, and the drivers—called "Hotdoggers." To top it off, Amber will display her personal collection of Wienermobile memorabilia, giving everyone a chance to connect with the nostalgia, design, and pure whimsy of this hot-dog shaped legend.

6. Backyard Herbs - Joanna Hady

With years of hands-on experience, Joanna Hardy will guide you through the basics of recognizing common medicinal plants in their natural habitats and demonstrate how to transform them into healing salves and tinctures. Whether you're a beginner or looking to deepen your herbal knowledge, this session offers practical tips and time-tested techniques to help you connect with nature and support your well-being naturally.

7. 100+ Women Who Care - Courtney Johnson

In Effingham, one of the best organizations for women, is the local chapter of 100+ Women Who Care. Courtney will describe what it is they do and provide valuable information about how they fundraise, giving our HCE members their own fundraising ideas to take back to their county.

8. Becoming a Dementia Friend - Emily Harmon

In this one-hour session you'll learn what Dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease, and learn some tips for communicating with people that have Dementia.

9. Chair Yoga

Mona's chair yoga share shop offers a gentle and accessible way to improve flexibility, balance, and overall well-being. Designed specifically for older adults, the session features seated and standing poses that use a chair for support. Participants will be guided through breathing exercises, stretches, and simple movements that help reduce stress and increase mobility.

10. It's a Friendship Thing - Virginia Gobeli

Take the time to make a gift for a friend. This is an 8 x 10 art poster made with paper, glue, and buttons with a couple of embellishments. Time to use your creativity as well! Choose between two sayings. Cost is \$7.00 and all supplies are furnished. Limited to 15 participants.

IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY SHARE SHOPS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH - 3:30-4:30 P.M.

11. History of the Purse - Janel Kassing

In this engaging share shop, Janel will explore the fascinating history of the purse and its evolution through time. You will learn about various styles, materials, and trends that have shaped the way purses are used and viewed today. This session offers a fun and informative look at an everyday accessory with a rich and stylish past.

12. Mobile Banking Midland Bank

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the world of mobile banking, helping them gain confidence in using banking apps safely and effectively. It covers the basics of setting up mobile banking, understanding features, maintaining security, and troubleshooting common issues. Participants will learn how to use their smartphones to manage their finances efficiently - from checking balances and paying bills to transferring money and setting up alerts.

13. Horticulture - Jane Chapman, Perry County, U of I Master Gardener

In her share shop, Jane will explore the therapeutic benefits of working with plants and nature. No matter what your physical condition, everyone can benefit from Horticulture Therapy. Learn what Horticulture Therapy is all about, how long it has been around, what are the benefits, how it is good for one's health and much more. The session will conclude with an activity that will improve your fine motor skills, reduce stress, improve your focus, create social interaction, and much more!

14. Many Faces of Water – Rachel Mannen

Discover the many faces of water in this refreshing program that uncovers the differences between tap, spring, mineral, seltzer, club soda, sparkling, and tonic waters. Learn how each type is made, how they differ in taste and ingredients, and how to use them to elevate your everyday beverages.

15. Chair Yoga - Mona Delgado

See description listed under Share Shop #9

16. Magical Sparkling Dragonflies – Carol Meffert

Make this adorable dragonfly using a whisk and glass beads. All supplies are furnished. Cost is \$6.00. Limited to 15 participants.

17. Pincushions – Sally Dennis

Using teacups and saucers, crafters will make a pincushion. You can use a mug or small jar. Bring your own teacup or mug. Fabric and glue will be furnished as well as small jars with lids if preferred. No cost. Limited to 15 participants.

**IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY SHARE SHOPS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH -1:45-2:30 P.M.

- 18. Treasurer and Secretary Office Meeting with Melissa Chitwood and Carla Meyer
- 19. Public Relations/Certified Volunteer Hours Officer Meeting with Emily McDowell and Ashely Davis
- 20. Family and Community Issues Officer Meeting with Vivian Gerrietts
- 21. 1st Vice Presidents Officer Meeting with Kathy Peterson and U of I Educator, Cheri Burcham

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH - 2:45-3:45 P.M.

19. Volunteer Burnout - Angela Hicks

Volunteers are the lifeblood of IAHCE and not-for-profit organizations like ours. Let's explore why it happens, how to recognize the signs, and learn strategies to help avoid burnout.

20. Wellness in Nature - Cheri Burcham

Spending time in nature can benefit mental and physical well-being. Explore the health benefits of being present in nature and discover simple activities to foster experiences in the natural world with Wellness in Nature presented by Illinois Extension Family Life Educator, Cheri Burcham.

21. Pickleball - What's the Big Dill?- Beth Sell and Kathy Teffertiller

Join our basic pickleball workshop for a fun and easy introduction to one of the fastest-growing sports! Beth and Kathy will cover the history and the basics, including how to hold the paddle, serve the ball, and keep score. You will learn key rules like the two-bounce rule and staying out of the kitchen during certain plays. They will give you tips on how to warm up properly with dynamic stretches to improve your performance and reduce the risk of common injuries.

22. Mini Massages - Royal School of Cosmetology

As a relaxing share shop option, students from the Royal School of Cosmetology will offer mini massages to help participants unwind and refresh. These short, soothing sessions focus on relieving tension in the neck, shoulders, and hands, providing a perfect moment of calm during a busy day. It's a great opportunity to experience the benefits of touch therapy while supporting aspiring cosmetologists as they practice their skills in a professional and welcoming environment. **Cost is \$10 and due at time of registration.**

23. History of Feed Sacks - Pat Weisman

In Pat's share shop about the history of cloth feed sacks, she will talk about the many creative and practical uses for feedsacks, from clothing and quilts to curtains and aprons, highlighting the resourcefulness of families during tough economic times. As part of her presentation, she will showcase her personal collection of vintage feedsacks, offering a hands-on look at the colorful patterns and designs that made these sacks both useful and beautiful.

**IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY SHARE SHOPS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH - 2:45-3:45 P.M. continued

24. Scorch Marker Cutting Boards – Amy Rogier

You will use stencils and scorch markers to burn your designs right into a cutting board. Choose from a variety of sayings and designs. All supplies will be furnished. Cost is \$15.00. Limited to 15 participants.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH - 4:00-5:00 P.M.

25. Bubbles and Beads - Angela Hicks

Finding art and beauty is not just in paintings and sculptures. Art is in everything we see, hear, touch, and sometimes taste! We will have fun while learning where to look, adapting what we see into something beautiful, and improve our mental health! No artistic skills needed- just an open mind and eye! Limit 30.

26. Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure – Carol Harms

In Carol Harms sharseshop on public speaking and parliamentary procedure, you will learn the importance of clear communication, confidence, and structured dialogue in formal settings. Public speaking skills help you express ideas persuasively and professionally, while knowledge of parliamentary procedure ensures that meetings are organized, fair, and efficient. Together, these skills empower individuals to participate actively in group discussions, lead meetings, and make decisions democratically.

27. Cooking with Herbs - Liz King, Mari-Mann Herbs

Liz King is President of Macon County HCE and owns Mari-Mann Herb Farm with her husband Mike. Whether you already like to cook with herbs and want more ideas or have no idea what to do with the stuff growing in your garden, Liz can help. We'll share recipes and ideas on using herbs and storing herbs and maybe even have some taste tests.

28. Fur Real Companionship - Sara Attig

Discover the amazing benefits animals bring to older adults! Research shows that pets can chase away loneliness, provide a sense of purpose, and get you moving. Explore fun alternatives for those who can't care for a pet. Whether you're an older adult, a family member, or a caregiver, this share shop will offer valuable insights and tips on how furry friends can enrich lives and create lasting bonds.

29. Mini Massages - Royal School of Cosmetology

See description under share shop 22. **Cost is \$10 and due at time of registration.**

30. Succulents

In this class you will learn a little about succulents and then pick out one to take home in your very own custom-made container. Cost is \$5.00. Limited to 15 participants.

31. Hand Sewn Easter Cards

Attendees will create two sewing greeting cards including a Cross with flowers and an Easter bunny. All materials will be furnished but please bring a small scissors. Cost is \$6.00. Limited to 20 participants.

IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE THURSDAY SHARE SHOPS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH – 8:30-9:30 A.M.

- 32.District 1 Director – Karen Davis
- 33.District 2 Director – Karen Cahill
- 34.District 3 Director – Donna Richards
- 35.District 4 Director – Carol Harms and Cindy Henderson

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH – 10:00-11:30 A.M.

36. Closing Session- Dawn Morris, Executive Director of the American Red Cross, serving South Central Illinois

Before coming to the Red Cross less than a year ago, Dawn was the Executive Director of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program for 12 years. Her focus was on serving poverty-stricken women and children in crisis. Dawn is a certified domestic violence professional. Dawn is an experienced executive director with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organization management industry. She is skilled in team building, fundraising, community organizing, community engagement, and leadership. Dawn will share how you can experience the magic of volunteering with ties to the Red Cross and share some of the magical experiences that she has seen take place within the Red Cross organization.



SHARE SHOP TICKET- TAKERS

We changed “facilitators” to “ticket-takers” for the share shops because that’s all we really need: someone to take tickets from attendees and assist the presenters when necessary. If you are willing to be a ticket-taker, there is a place to note that on the share shop registration page.

What should I bring to Conference?

Bring to Conference:

- Medication or special equipment
- Games, puzzles and cards—meet some new friends
- Sweater or shawl—room temperatures tend to fluctuate
- Notebooks, pens, paper
- Silent auction items & Cultural Enrichment items tagged and ready to go
- Banner & banner stand
- Bingo prizes or \$1 bills, spare cash to spend on silent auction
- Information to share at your District Meeting or Officer share shop
- Themed apparel for dress up days and nights (if participating)
- A smile and a good attitude 😊

Want to Volunteer at Conference?

Ways you can help at conference:

- Registration
- Silent Auction
- Cultural Enrichment
- Hospitality (Greeting guests as they arrive)
- Games and Puzzles
- Runners (taking messages to people/running items to people)
- Setting out table favors

If you are interested in helping with any of these areas at our conference, please fill out the below form and include it with your registration.

Name: _____ County: _____

Area (s) I'm willing to assist: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Silent Auction

Reminder to bring your silent auction items to conference! We are looking for quality items such as gift baskets, crocheted or knitted blankets, quilted items, gift cards, book bundles that include brand new books in a certain genre, gently used recipe book bundles, food baskets, etc. We do not care to have items such as stacks of hangers, torn or worn books or books pertaining to any type of outdated material, dusty candles or soaps, or clearly used items. Be prepared to bring extra money or your checkbook to bid on items!

Cultural Enrichment

Please remember to bring your cultural enrichment items along with the tags assigned to them. It helps if you can have these items tagged ahead of time. We are looking for no more than eight items from each county and only four items may be entered by the same individual in your county. We ask that you be respectful of everyone's items by not removing tags placed on projects and you do not touch anything. We cannot wait to see what you have to share! See you soon!

Conference Reminders – deadline is January 31:

- Pre-order your conference t-shirt and bag.
- Have your county place an AD in the Annual Conference Program Book. Send the ad information to Emily McDowell, PO 522, Pierron, IL 62273 OR email to emhohl@gmail.com and mail the check to Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Health, IL 61884
- Register for conference and share shops. Send to Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Health, IL 61884
- Make hotel arrangements. Call 1-217-540-7777 and mention group code H.C.E. (Holiday Inn)

By January 15, email your 10 pictures for the slide show to Becky Belcher — beckybelcher75@gmail.com

Pictures must be in a JPG or PNG file

Other Reminders – deadline is January 5:

- Mail CVH hours to Ashley Davis, 1787 N. 1750th Street, St. Elmo, IL 62458.
- Mail application for “**County of the Year**” award to Angela Hicks, 500 Moraine Hill Drive, Cary, IL 60013
- Mail Dues and the new Dues Transmittal/ End of Year Membership form to Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Health, IL 61884
- Mail the following **Education Award Forms and Books:**
 - Family & Community Issues** to Vivian Gerrietts, 106 Linden Ln., Green Valley, IL 61534
 - Cultural Enrichment** to Becky Belcher, 8682 CR 1600 E, McLeansboro, IL 62859
 - Public Relations** to Emily McDowell, PO 522, Pierron, IL 62273.
 - International** to Janel Kassing, 328 South Main, Red Bud, IL 62278



Send your **Cultural Enrichment** registration forms to Becky Belcher, 8682 CR 1600 E, McLeansboro, IL 62859

We hope to see you Experience the Magic at the IAHCE 2026 Conference!

Don't disappear on us....



IAHCE 102ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Each individual in each room will be required to check in with the hotel front desk and may be asked for a credit card on file for incidentals.

ROOM BLOCK STARTS DECEMBER 15, 2025

HOLIDAY INN -1301 Avenue of Mid-America, Effingham

RECOMMENDED OPTION- CONFERENCE CENTER CONNECTED TO HOTEL

Rate is \$179.20 and includes taxes and fees for up to 4 people per room for a standard room and \$222.88 for a suite for up to 4 people per room

To make a Reservation: (Room block ends February 17, 2026)

Call 217-540-7777 and use group code ILH. Rooms will fill up quickly so don't delay and reserve today! Breakfast will be provided in the Hospitality Room each day of conference.



OTHER OPTIONS

Country Inn and Suites -1200 N Raney Street, Effingham

(Within Walking Distance) 217-540-5555

Rate is \$110 which does not include taxes or fees

Ask for Illinois Home and Community Education

Room block is available until February 16th. You must specify arrival and departure! Breakfast is included!



La Quinta Inn and Suites- 1103 Avenue of Mid-America, Effingham –

No Room Block

(Within Walking Distance) 217-540-1111 Lodging does include breakfast

Quality Inn -1304 W Evergreen Avenue, Effingham - No Room Block (.7 miles away, 3-minute drive) 217-347-5050 Lodging does include breakfast

Hampton Inn and Suites -1305 N Keller Drive, Effingham -

No Room Block

(.3 miles away, 2-minute drive) 217-540-5050 Lodging does include breakfast



IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION- MARCH 17-19, 2026

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2026 A late fee will be added if not postmarked by that date. PLEASE PRINT

Name (one form per person please) _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____ NEW IAHCE District # _____ County _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Person to contact in emergency _____ Phone (____) _____

Special dietary needs: (circle one) gluten-free diabetic vegetarian dairy

NOTE: This designation will apply to all conference meals.

PLEASE CHECK AND/OR COMPLETE ALL SPACES WHICH APPLY

IAHCE Member _____ 50 year member _____ or more _____ (# of years) Voting Delegate _____

First-time attendee _____ County Board Officer _____ if so, office held _____

Guest _____ Past STATE BOARD member _____ Past STATE PRESIDENT _____

REGISTRATION FEES: PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION

3 Day Package - All meals and registration \$230.00 _____

Full Day (Tuesday or Wednesday) Package – All Meals & registration (Circle: Tues. or Wed.) 150.00 _____

Daytime (Tuesday or Wednesday) Package –Lunch & registration (Circle: Tues. or Wed.) 100.00 _____

Wednesday Elsie Mies Banquet only 75.00 _____

Make-It & Take-It & Share Shops (Pre-registration and payment required; enter total here and indicate your selection(s) on page 2 of this registration form. Assume you will get your 1st choice) _____

T-Shirts - \$25 each ____S ____M ____L ____XL ____XXL ____XXXL _____

Crossbody Bag - \$30.00 each _____ Quantity _____

SUB TOTAL _____

\$50 District Scholarship Certificate won at 2025 District Workshop (**SUBTRACT**) _____
(Must register for full conference. Certificate must be included with payment)

Late Fee: \$15.00 per person entire conference; \$10.00 per person for Full Day or Daytime _____

Registration is transferable, not refundable. **Make check payable to IAHCE** **TOTAL** _____

Send payment with Registration and Share Shop forms to:

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

2026 SHARE SHOP REGISTRATION

Name _____ County _____

Instructions: Choose the share shop you prefer to attend in each of the time periods by placing 1, 2, 3. (OMITTING the 2nd & 3rd choices WILL NOT ENSURE placement in your 1st choice.)

Share Shops will be filled per registration date.

Send the forms for conference registration and share shop selection registration with your check made out to IAHCE to:

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

Officer Meetings- 1:15-2:00 p.m.

- ☐ 1. President
- ☐ 2. 2nd Vice President
- ☐ 3. International
- ☐ 4. Cultural Enrichment

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

- ☐ 5. Oscar Meyer Weinermobile
- ☐ 6. Backyard Herbs
- ☐ 7. 100+ Women Who Care
- ☐ 8. Becoming a Dementia Friend
- ☐ 9. Chair Yoga
- ☐ 10. MITI- Friendship \$7

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

- ☐ 11. History of the Purse
- ☐ 12. Mobile Banking
- ☐ 13. Horticulture Therapy
- ☐ 14. Many Faces of Water
- ☐ 15. Chair Yoga
- ☐ 16. MITI- Dragonfly \$6
- ☐ 17. MITI- Pincushions Free

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Officer Meetings- 1:45-2:30 p.m.

- ☐ 18. Treasurer/Secretary
- ☐ 19. Public Relations/CVH
- ☐ 20. Family & Community Issues
- ☐ 21. 1st Vice Pres.

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

- ☐ 22. Volunteer Burnout
- ☐ 23. Wellness in Nature
- ☐ 24. Pickleball 101
- ☐ 25. **Mini Massages \$10.00**
- ☐ 23. History of Feedsacks
- ☐ 24. **MITI - Cutting Boards \$15**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- ☐ 25. Bubbles and Beads
- ☐ 26. Public Speaking & Parliamentary
- ☐ 27. Cooking with Herbs
- ☐ 28. Fur Real Companionship
- ☐ 29. **Mini Massages \$10.00**
- ☐ 30. **MITI- Succulents \$5.00**
- ☐ 31. **MITI- Sewn Cards \$6.00**

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH

DISTRICT MEETINGS

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- ☐ 32. District #1
- ☐ 33. District #2
- ☐ 34. District #3
- ☐ 35. District #4

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

- ☐ 36. Closing Ceremony

(No other share shops will be offered during this time)

*Classes requiring a fee have been bolded. MITI stands for Make-It, Take-It.

Please add up your total cost for share shops and notate the amount here

\$ _____

I am willing to collect tickets for the following sessions: (write in the session #)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 1:15-2:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 2:15-3:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 3:30-4:30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 1:45-2:30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 2:45-3:45 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 4:00-5:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 8:30-9:30 | |

2026 IAHCE 102ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BAG, T-SHIRT AND CONFERENCE LAPEL PIN

PRE-ORDER FORM



Heather Green Gildan Soft Style V-Neck



2026 Lapel Pin



Port Authority CrossBody Back Pack

Name: _____

County: _____

District: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

IAHCE 2026 Conference Bag Qty: _____ x \$30.00 Total: _____

IAHCE 2026 Conference Shirt: _____ x \$25.00 Total: _____

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

**** Any size above 3XL will be crew neck style****

2026 IAHCE Conference Lapel Pin: Qty: _____ x \$6.00 Total: _____

Total of Order: \$ _____

All orders are to be postmarked by: January 31, 2026

Make Checks Payable to: IAHCE

Please mail order form and money to:

Ashley Davis, 1787 N 1750th St, St Elmo, IL 62458

****All orders will be delivered to 2026 Conference/No Shipping****

IAHCE 2026 – 102nd Conference Program Book Advertisement

DEADLINE—JANUARY 31, 2026

(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**