

# ***THE IAHCCE CHRONICLE***

## ***MAKE TIME***



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**CONFERENCE  
INSERT  
INSIDE!**

# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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# NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

## Angela Hicks - IAHCCE President



Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

As we approach the end of the year, what did you “make time” for throughout this past year? I believe many of you took this theme to heart just as I did! Some of the counties had a renewed interest in gaining new members through programming and special events. As the president, I was able continue travelling to the Counties throughout the state sharing and encouraging the members. The Board also hosted the 11 NVON states at the NVON Conference held in Springfield. This theme of “Make Time” had an impact on me in many ways – making time for my family no matter where they are and personal time working on various projects of interest.

I am happy to report that at this time we will have 13 Illinois HCE members attend the 31<sup>st</sup> ACWW Triennial in Ottawa, Canada in April of 2026. There may be others I am not aware of and if this is true, please let us know that you will be attending the Triennial. What is exciting about this Triennial? First we have 2 people from the USA who are nominated for positions on the ACWW Board. Jane Chapman, Perry County President, is nominated for ACWW USA Area President and Jo Almond (Indiana) is nominated for Board Lead on Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities. Second, Resolution #14 - Childcare Deserts submitted by NVON will be presented for a vote. The author is our very own Carol Harms, District 4 Director! If you want to know more about ACWW and the coming Triennial, I encourage you to visit [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) website.

In November we sent the President’s packet to all the County Presidents. It contains information and forms for the 2026 “Experience the Magic of IAHCCE” Conference. We encourage the Presidents to share the information with the County Board and members. Important information is included about Candidates, Budget Proposal and a Bylaw Proposal among other information. Important forms are the Conference Registration, Delegate Registration, the Report of Projects, and other conference related forms. The pre-conference information will be available online in December also.

The IAHCCE Board encourages all county HCE members to attend the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in March – included in this newsletter you will find the 2026 Conference insert. You will find many exciting opportunities to learn, share, and have fun! Encourage your members to attend the **102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, “Experience the Magic of IAHCCE”!**

I encourage each of you to continue to be positive and to continue building membership in HCE!  
**“Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments.” Rose Kennedy**

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

Two important activities this coming year.

#1– Collect Pop Tabs– They will be recorded by district and kept track of. We will do so at conference and district workshop in August. We hope to tie the donations with International and world wide program of the Ronald McDonald Homes.

#2– Cozy Couch Club– We will meet on Wednesday night at conference. We will have treats and talk about all of the books. You can read one or all three of the following books. It's up to you.

~An Irish Bookshop Murder by Lucy Connolly

~The Lost Bookshop by Evie Woods

~The Secret Book and Scone Society by Ellery Adams

These are all fun reads! I will provide Irish themed treats. We will have awesome discussion.

I have a number of other adventures that I will forward to your First Vice Presidents plus more details on these two activities. I am looking for FUN in 2026!

Have a great holiday season!

Kathy



## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Alice Grooms

Hello All,

This is the TIME of the year to think about staying inside due to the cold weather and the holidays. This is the TIME of year to invite your “shut-in” friends and neighbors to your HCE meetings and activities. This is the TIME of year to share and renew. What about considering a gift certificate for one of those “shut-in” friends and neighbors to join HCE for this holiday season? These are the kinds of things to think about this TIME of the year.

As we are pulling everything together to end our 101st year, we can't forget about maintaining and increasing our membership. It is a continuous theme for everyone throughout the year. Be sure to turn in your end of the year membership number to me by January 5, 2026 and remember to join us in March at the Annual Conference to celebrate our achievements and hard work.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Holiday and a Happy New Year!



## SECRETARY– Carla Meyer

Thank you to all the counties that have provided their officer lists to me after their annual meetings. I enjoyed attending the District Meetings and having an opportunity to meet many of you. Each county president should have received a president's packet with the conference information. The conference information is also included in this newsletter. "Experience the Magic" is the theme for the 2026 IAHCE Conference being held March 17-19, 2026, at the Thelmer Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Officers to be elected are 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Public Relations/Newsletter Editor, and Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales. The information about each of the candidates is included in this newsletter along with the District 4 Director elected at the District meeting.

Hope to see you at conference.



## TREASURER– Melissa Chitwood



In March 2026 my "time" as your IAHCE Treasurer will come to a close. It is not the end, it is just the beginning of a new chapter in my life and for IAHCE. The theme chosen for 2021 (the conference was cancelled because of Covid) "Change is to Grow, Grow is to Become" is a definite truth in writing statement. We all must make changes to grow and become in order to build for a future. When I look back at the time I have spent on the board, I am happy to know that you have journeyed along the way with me. I have learned so much while serving on the IAHCE Board and have made life long friendships. I know that I may not have been available 100% of the time; I thank you for your patience and understanding while I did what I felt like I needed to do.

This year, 2025 has been one of change, and everyone appears to have adapted well! We redistricted, changed some due dates (January 5 is a hot deadline date!), we changed the membership form, increased dues, and put it on the counties to get the most current forms from our website at [iahce.org](http://iahce.org) (be sure to refresh to get the most current form!).

### REMINDERS:

NOVEMBER 20– Friendship Project Fund money is due (form and money sent to me)

DECEMBER 1– The Bee Cause Project ends this year (all reports and money should be submitted by December 1) Please contact me if you still have money ASAP!

JANUARY 5– The Dues Transmittal and Year End Membership form should be sent to me with your dues (\$8 per member as of 12/31/2024 which check payable to IAHCE) SEND A COPY OF THE FORM

JUNE 1– Support Fund Applications are due (you can send these to me before March 1 or to the new treasurer after conference).

I sincerely hope that this year you have reflected on what matters most to you and that moving forward you will continue "Making Time" for HCE and all things important to you. March may be the end of my term, but I am looking forward to still being around and continuing to support IAHCE. Come Experience the Magic with me in March.



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher



*It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!* I'm getting ready to *Deck the Halls* and soon I'll be *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. I'm wishing for all of *My Favorite Things*. And of course *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*, so *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow. Do You Hear What I hear?* I think it's *Jingle Bells*. Who's up for a *Sleigh Ride* in a *Winter Wonderland*? I do believe *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. Remember, there's *No Place Like Home for the Holidays*. So *I'll Be Home for Christmas* where I'll be remembering *The First Noel* on that *Silent Night* that announced the birth of the *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* who would bring *Joy to the World!*

I'm sure when you receive this newsletter the holidays will be foremost on your mind, and maybe, like me, Christmas carols will be swirling through your head (see above). However, there probably are a few other things – HCE things -- that are swirling through your head as well. Following are a few reminders:

### PROGRAM REPORTS

I am looking forward to receiving **Cultural Enrichment Program Reports for Educational Awards** from the counties. Information on compiling and submitting these reports can be found in the guidebook on pages 53 - 57. Mail your reports to me, Becky Belcher, 8682 Co. Rd. 1600E, McLeansboro, IL 62859. They must be postmarked by **January 5th**.

### CULTURAL ARTS SHOW

This is the first time using the new categories list. **You must use the updated list, page 27 in the Guide Book.**



Please note the following clarification to the size rule: the items must be no larger than 24 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.

Please note an addition to rule # 1 on page 26 of the Guide Book -- **no more than 4 entries per individual member.**

To enter items in the **Cultural Arts Show** held at the Annual Conference, the County Cultural Enrichment Director should send a completed registration form, page 28 of the Guidebook, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to me, Becky Belcher, 8682 Co. Rd. 1600E, McLeansboro, IL 62859.

The registration form must be postmarked by **January 5th**.  Please fill out the registration form accurately and completely, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. I will send a tag for each item back to you. These tags are to be attached securely and visibly to the items, by you, before checking them in, or at time of check-in. If you prefer, you may register your items by email. Fill out the form, scan it and email it to me, [beckybelcher75@gmail.com](mailto:beckybelcher75@gmail.com) by **January 5th**. I will send your tags by email, which you must then print and attach as instructed above. I will send a confirmation email as soon as I receive your registration. If you don't get that confirmation email within 24 hours please resend or call me.

I know the earlier deadline has been challenging for some of you. Thank you for making adjustments and complying with the new rules. I'm so proud of my Cultural Enrichment Directors!

One more carol for you – ***We Wish You a Merry Christmas!***

# Family and Community Issues— Vivian Gerrietts



Holiday greetings to our IAHCE F/C Issues team and the rest of the Illinois HCE membership!

I write this as the board holds the October meeting in Effingham. I thought I might as well continue to talk you through a rookie year on the IAHCE (our state affiliation) board. Election, June board meeting, NVON (our national affiliation) hosted by IAHCE this year in Springfield, Illinois, a south to north trip of Illinois meeting women from 3 district meetings and now a half week of board in October has certainly kept me from being bored!

At this morning's education committee meeting, I learned more about the awards system. Applying for awards is what I'm highlighting in this news article. Please refer to pages 59 – 63 in your guidebook in order to make a good application or even decide if you are going to apply! These may also be found on line at IAHCE.org website. Family and Community Issues has 3 categories: 1) Family Living; 2) Health, Food and Nutrition; 3) Citizenship. There are Grand, 2nd and 3rd place awards given at the Tuesday evening Awards Ceremony at the March Conference for both the large and smaller counties. (55 and up is larger. 54 and lower is small.) All submitted awards will be shared at our conference share shop.

Page 63 is the cover/application sheet, so you will need to make a copy of that and fill it out. There are 5 areas. Put all of your photos, information, objective statements and how they were met, news articles, info handouts, accomplishments or betterments, etc. together in a folder or binder. SEND THEM TO ME BY JANUARY 5 (postmarked) for evaluation. There are to be no more than 10 pages. You can use less if you can show and tell in less! Also keep in mind that you can only win the Grand award two years in a row (See guidebook pg 59).

The evaluation sheet is on page 61. There are also 5 categories for scoring, not necessarily matching up with the application 5. A category to watch is "did you follow up" which is in #2. Follow up could lead to a better score in #3 as well. #4 – neatness counts. It could be the tie breaker. #5 is about networking. Sounds like a 2020's buzzword!

At the District meetings, we briefly talked about brag sheets as a way to share. I'm talking pictures and captions perhaps with a heading telling who and what. This is meant to be more of a tech project. It could be more pages than we'd want to print if every county did one. So I will be looking for a way to share the brag sheets using social media digitally. This is totally informational and voluntary, The big reports are the award booklets for judging.

Speaking of buzzwords, here are some I heard at NVON and you're bound to notice something coming your way about them: reading circles/clubs, special interest groups/spin clubs (just in case you are used to that term in 4-H), puzzle competitions, senior isolation, all kinds of mental health issues including harm reduction.

I so enjoyed the engagement we had at all three of our district meeting breakout sessions! You ladies are full of ideas and works! Here are some of them: Substance/Drug abuse and Truancy (a program someone used from U of Ill, if I wrote it correctly), Soap for Hope (use a detergent bottle to collect quarters), Loneliness/Isolation (there is a recent Lesson for Living that included this), Holy Souls (clothes for lost babies, making baby burial gowns from donated wedding gowns), Fiddle/fidget bags and blankets (making and distributing them), help groups (soup kitchens, sock and bra collections), Food Waste Lesson (out of U of Illinois), and violence awareness. Come to conference in March to share more!

Thank you for also filling out eval sheets from district. Our district directors compiled what you had written. They show both good attendance and attention. And they were mostly complimentary and gave us helpful feedback!

Each board member is on at least 2 committees besides our elected position. Mine are Education and Leadership but this session I plan to sit in on a couple of other committees to see what happens there beyond what we will all hear during the minutes at the Full Board session. We all have jobs at the conference as well!

Until we gather together again, Vivian

# International- Janel Kassing

The International Committee met at the October board meeting. Our primary order of business at that meeting is to disperse the Friendship Projects Fund monies collected by counties in 2024. Our total was \$12,392,83. Of course, by procedures adopted at the 2025 Conference, 50% of that money goes directly to ACWW. 25% goes to 4-H, IFYE, International Peace Garden, stipends for counties and the printing of International materials. Some of the remaining 25% goes to Triennial travel for the delegate and International Director. Angela, I, and about 11 others will be traveling to Ottawa in April, 2026. It is so interesting to meet fellow members from around the world. The remaining monies (about \$1800+) will go to Ronald McDonald Houses- International. This charity has an efficiency rating of 97% and has chapters in 60+ countries. I will have more information for counties in the March International packet. We looked at many internationally-focused charities and, the efficiency and knowledge of this one made it appealing to our membership. This will also be our designated charity in 2026. The next International Director will choose a new charity in 2027.



My term as International Director will be up in March, 2027. Please consider this position and fill out an application for the board. I'll be glad to talk to you about the responsibilities.

Your international projects must be postmarked to me by January 5, 2026. My address is in this newsletter. I look forward to having my mailbox stuffed with many projects. Don't forget to apply for the mini stipend as you enter your project. Just add a budget and it must include receipts to qualify.

I will be including recipes from the Dominican Republic/Caribbean Islands in the March packet. I will include research on the Ronald McDonald House- International. If you have a good Caribbean recipe or any info on the Ronald McDonald Houses, please share with me. Looking forward to meeting with you at the 2026 conference. It promises to be a magical experience- please join us.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Valentine's Day.

See you for St. Patrick's Day,

Janel



# 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 IAHCCE 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 2026 IAHCCE 102nd Annual Conference. 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 are 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's 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 \$34.79. So be sure to get those hours in.

The grand awards for CVH are as follows:

**County:**

**Highest # of HCE Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Highest Other Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Highest Total Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place



**Member:**

**Highest # of HCE Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Highest Other Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Highest Total Hours**

Grand  
2<sup>nd</sup> place  
3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Reminders:** The County Summaries are to be postmarked (emailed hours must be sent by midnight) by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 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. Starting in 2026, if the certificates must be replaced due to misspelled name (county's fault) or lost certificates, the counties will be responsible for the cost of postage and paper. For reports that are 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 to order your conference tote bag and conference T-shirt early. The tote bag will be \$30.00; the T-shirt is \$25.00 for all sizes and the lapel pin for \$6.00. So, get your orders for the IAHCE 102nd memorabilia. As always if you preorder your tote, T-shirt and lapel pin you will pick those up at the Conference in March.

Hope to see you all at the 2026 IAHCE 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference!

From Me, Donnie, Freddy O & Fluff we wish you all a Merry Christmas and God Bless you all.

Ashley Davis

## Public Relations- Emily McDowell

I had a busy summer with some mini vacations to Branson, Lake Barkley in Kentucky, and the NVON Conference in Springfield. My husband and I welcomed two litters of puppies as well, one born just after the 4th of July. We now have 41 puppies across the U.S. We kept a female out of our last litter. Her name is Trinitie (because she is third generation pup) and she is an angel (mostly).



This sadly will be the last newsletter I will be organizing as my duties expire in March after the 2026 conference. It has been an amazing six years and I've met so many great people! Special thanks go to Pat

Hildebrand for asking me to apply for the state board. I do not feel I did as great a job as she, but I hope that some of the small changes we've made to the newsletter has been appreciated. While we are gearing up for conference, I can only hope that many of you will attend. It is sure to be a "magical" experience! I have a lot of exciting things planned which you will find in the conference insert in this newsletter. The board and I are anxiously awaiting for it to get here!

Next year is going to be an exciting year because not only am I helping to host conference, but I am going to Ottawa, Canada for the ACWW Triennial. It will be my first trip to Canada and my first time to a Triennial. I am so excited about this opportunity! A fun fact about me— my family is the family of 6's. I am six years apart from my sister, who is six years apart from my brother, who is sixteen years apart from my uncle, who is six years apart from my mom, who is also six years apart from my dad. My sister's girls are both six years apart and I was born on the 16th of November. Moral of this fact is that it is very fitting that I would get to host the 2026 IAHCE Annual Conference! I hope you will "Experience the Magic" of the IAHCE Conference in 2026!

## Extension Educator— Cheri Burcham

Greetings from Illinois Extension! I just wanted to make sure and remind you that all units should be discussing what topics they would like to learn about in 2027 so they can be submitted for consideration by extension staff. Topics are collected from across the state and then given to Extension staff to decide if they are within the scope of what they can teach. Then topics are proposed at the IAHCE Annual Conference and voted on by unit first vices attendance. If you want to make sure your topics are included, please submit them to your IAHCE First Vice Kathy Peterson by email at [kathyiahceproud@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyiahceproud@yahoo.com) or to me, your Extension/HCE Liaison, Cheri Burcham by email at [cburcham@illinois.edu](mailto:cburcham@illinois.edu) or to my mailing address at 304 E. Progress, Arthur, IL 61911.



Topics should be sent no later than January 2, 2026. This is your way to give input into the lessons that are developed by extension. I also want to mention that if a lesson you are interested in is not listed in the lessons for living flyer or handout that first vice presidents receive, and/or extension staff cannot find them in our internal system, they probably are either lessons that have been discontinued because they are outdated or they are NOT our lessons. I get request often for lessons that are not ours and are probably from other counties or other states. If you have questions about the lesson handouts, please contact your first vice or extension staff. I am also still available to check into those if needed. I hope you are enjoying the fall season and have a happy holiday season!!

## DISTRICT 1 NEWS

### DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR — Karen Davis



**Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.**

---Helen Keller

Each issue of the Chronicle informs us of what others are accomplishing in our state. As a team we are quite impressive. Offering help to a neighbor in need will never win accolades from anyone but maybe the neighbor. Put all the hundreds and thousands of good deeds together in IAHCE and a tsunami of good-will will flood our state. Let's keep helping our communities thrive, one good deed after another.

The Christmas season is a busy one. Be sure to MAKE TIME:

~To be grateful for each day and opportunity

~To care about those in need and help when/where you are able

~To visit an elderly HCE member who is no longer able to get out to meetings and other social gatherings

The list goes on and on. In short, make time to do something meaningful among all the busyness of holiday preparations. You will be glad that you did and others will be blessed.

Be sure to pay attention to all the year-end deadlines. They are listed in this issue of the Chronicle. It will help your state board to process the information in a timely manner. Be sure to register for the 2026 IAHCE state conference in Effingham, March 17-19, 2026. It will be an exciting time to discover and celebrate the magic of our organization. It will be AMAZING.

Thank you to all counties in District 1 for keeping me informed of all your activities.

I totally delight in being with you at your county annual meetings and other events. I haven't gotten to all the Districts in District 1 yet, but I hope to complete the goal in 2026. Any and all invitations are welcome.

Blessings to all and enjoy the MAGIC of this holiday season. Make it a special time by celebrating with faith, time by celebrating with faith, family and friends.

## *Carroll*



Freedom Unit celebrated fall at their October meeting with a pumpkin Charcuterie created by Karen Kromer. Even the flat pretzel treats are shaped kind of like pumpkins.

Our *Christmas Around the World Event* in conjunction with area 4-H clubs was postponed to be part of the annual Christmas walk in Savanna, IL. We will be presenting information about how Christmas is celebrated in South Africa with a Christmas star craft for students and adults to create. We are intrigued by a popular specialty there: stuffed "worms" which are then deep-fried. In the photos online, they make a colorful dish. We will settle for serving gummy worms. We look forward to working with the 4-H students who we have been supporting with county fair awards and ribbons. Come by and see us if you are in the area. Bridges, 417 Main Street, Savanna, 5-8 p.m., November 28. Call Karen D. if you are able to help. 815-575-1889



## *DuPage*

On August 25th we had our Update and pot luck luncheon. Some of our members came thinking it was to be our international meeting but we hadn't received our recipes yet. They were to be in the next Paging Du-Pagers. Our "Morning in the Park" at Herrick Lake on September 17th was not interrupted by any unwanted creatures. We had an enjoyable time.

Greeting cards were made for veterans at our Community Service Day on October 15th. The lesson on decluttering was well received. We had heard about many ways to declutter in the past, including "remove one item from each room every day" (but that only results in moving an item somewhere else). The lesson made sense.

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed Morningside in Lisle on September 15th and on October 30th they enjoyed First Watch in Naperville.

We had two major celebrations. The first was Nancy Burke's (Ethel Marshall Unit) 80th birthday party at the Lisle Library. The entire DuPage County HCE was invited along with The Lisle Women's Club, Red Hatters, Cook and Taste, church members, and any other groups with which she is associated.

The second was our International Celebration. Some members tried their hands at making authentic South African dishes while others brought something else appropriate. Our presenter brought items from her safari to South Africa and Tanzania. A visual presentation of South Africa was shown during lunch, followed by a power point presentation of the Tanzanian Safari. Her sister has a side job of booking tours. No, DuPage County HCE is not planning an African Safari.

Mylon Fisher, Jr. Public Information

## *Grundy*

The year is flying by already. Corn Fest is over, Halloween is here and Thanksgiving is just around the corner and before you know it our annual conference will be here. We are looking forward to 2026 and hoping everything will be healthy. The board is looking at new lessons and presentations for 2026. The book club has read *The Queens of Crime*, *The Bookclub for Troublesome Women*, *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*, *The Raffle Baby*, and *The Women in the Castle*.

## *Lake*

Hello from Lake County HCE,

LCAHCE celebrated the beginning of autumn with a "Make Time for All Things Pumpkin" Cultural Enrichment Day Event! The day was a little cooler, we saw the auditorium decorated with bright colors and the fragrance of pumpkin everything in the air! The day began with Alex Landberg, Master Gardener Program Coordinator giving a presentation and lesson on composting with an emphasis on pumpkin disposal. He shared information about various composting methods as well as an unusual but fun way, the Pumpkin Smash, sponsored by U of I Extensions throughout the state. We viewed the worm composting box and toured the outside composting bins. One of the Master Gardeners also gave us a tour of the demonstration gardens. If that wasn't enough we also decorated pumpkin cards for a local nursing home and members competed to see who could come up with the most words from the words "pumpkin patch". We had all things pumpkin for lunch including soup, cornbread, and pumpkin bars. We ended the day with the announcement of winners for each Cultural Arts category and the judges choice winner, Noel Henke.



Noel knitted a cowl scarf. Eight of the winners will be sent to the IAHC Cultural Enrichment contest in March. The most exciting part of this is we will have some new members starting in January. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, the International Day will have come and gone. We have an excellent South African menu planned for attendees and LCAHCE members who have travelled to South Africa will share their experiences with us. We are sure that Jane Ellen Keroson, International Chair, and her committee has other fun activities up her sleeve!

We look forward to attending the March conference.



## *Stephenson*

The 171st Stephenson County Fair was held on July 22-26 in Freeport. The fair theme was “Ham it Up at the Stephenson County Fair 2025”. For the first time, our HCE display was located in the 4-H building. During the week we had information on HCE and copies of past lessons available for anyone who stopped at our area. We presented various programs a few times during the afternoon hours. On Thursday, September 4, Stephenson County HCE hosted a multi-county meeting at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. Through discussion, information and ideas were shared among the members who attended the meeting.

On Saturday, September 27, HCE held a barn quilt class at the Farm Bureau. The instructor, Abby Mielke-Sunnyhill Crafts, brought the supplies and oversaw the painting of the wooden barn quilts. On Thursday, October 23, Stephenson County HCE participated in the Senior Lifestyle Expo at the Freeport Eagles Club. This annual event is sponsored by the Senior Resource Center and our organization has taken part the last several years. There were brochures about our organization and copies of popular past lessons as well as candy treats!

On Saturday, October 25, Stephenson County HCE Annual and International Meetings were held at the Farm Bureau. During the annual meeting, membership and CVH awards were handed out. Janet Ferguson, Blackhawk Unit, was honored as our Homemaker of the Year. Silver Creek Unit performed the memorial service for members who passed away during the last year. Following the election of officers, IAHC President Angela Hicks installed the 2026 officers and directors.

Two \$300 scholarships were awarded at the meeting. Frist, Alaina Dinderman, an Orangeville High School graduate, who is attending the University of Wisconsin in Platteville. She is majoring in animal science as a pre-vet with a minor in agricultural business. The second recipient was Matthew Meyer, a Stillman Valley High school graduate who is attending the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point. He is seeking a major in Data Analytics with a minor in business. Our HCE scholarship can be received a total of two times. This is the second time Matthew applied and received the scholarship.

There was a lunch break at noon, where everyone was served baked potatoes with all the trimmings, salad, and decorated cookies for dessert. There was also a choice of two kinds of soup; chili and South African peanut stew plus a South African picnic bread.

Following the luncheon, we held our International Meeting on South Africa. Ann Young, a Freeport resident, was the speaker. She is a seasoned world traveler having visited over 84 countries— some more than just once! She was employed by the Freeport Journal Standard for thirty years and wrote a column for twelve years. She related her travel experiences when she visited the country in 2016. South Africa is the most visited country in Africa.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2026!**



Senior Lifestyle Expo - Stephenson County HCE members - Becky Thomas, Janice Fryer, Carla Meyer (Back Row) and Diana Ethridge with Judy Prasse (Front Row)



Carla Meyer and Ann Runkle at Stephenson County Fair

Stephenson County HCE Annual Meeting - IAHCE President Angela Hicks, Janice Fryer, Kathy Fabian, Judy Prasse, Ann Runkle, Diana Ethridge, Becky Thomas, and Carla Meyer (County Board - 2026)



*Will*

Aren't the Fall colors amazing? Here it is November and most trees are still hanging onto their leaves. I guess the dry weather we have had for the past few months has intensified nature's colors, too. Love the red and gold-colored trees sprinkled among the green, yellow, and rust-colored ones along the city streets and throughout the forest preserves and parks. Nature's fall palette is breathtaking.

**WCHCE Events:**

On **August 7th**, five members of the WCHCE Board traveled to Sycamore for the IAHCE District Meeting. We especially enjoyed speaking to our state counterparts who were able to answer questions about our position. The IAHCE District Meeting provides the "glue" that brings so many counties together and makes us feel united.

On **September 9th**, our WCHCE held one of its annual Bunco parties at the Will County Farm Bureau. Nineteen members and guests took part in the fun game. Everyone brought and ate their lunches before the playing begun. The Board provided drinks, desserts, and monetary prizes. It was a free event for all. Our next Bunco Day will be held in February.

**October 14th** was the date for our Cultural Arts Event. In the morning, we held our regular business meeting. Unfortunately, our scheduled speakers could not come so our members took advantage of the time chatting with others whom they rarely see. Rosattis provided a catered chicken lunch with sides. After dessert, Amber from Catholic Charities led a craft activity where we painted and decorated a tree craft. Everyone enjoyed the event.

A Christmas party is being planned for **Dec. 2nd** at Crispy Waffle Restaurant. All members are invited to attend.

In October, we received wonderful news! Our WCHCE was awarded a very generous senior grant from the Joliet Township. The money must be used exclusively for the benefit of our members. We are hoping that this gift will help us bolster our membership, which has been declining the past few years. We hope to provide more activities and lower the cost of luncheons so more of our members can attend. We are extremely thankful to the Joliet Township.

**Here's wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a beautiful and blessed Christmas season.**

Mary Barrett, Newsletter



## DISTRICT 2 NEWS

### DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill

What a busy but productive year this has been as we “Make Time” for HCE. I have enjoyed getting to know some of my new counties (and yes, I miss the ladies of the counties no longer in District 2). I appreciated the mini-meeting attendance. If you haven’t had a chance to join us yet, hopefully your schedule will allow you to take part next year. Right now, we are looking at Tuesday, June 30th and Thursday, November 5th, 2026. More information to follow closer to the events.

You should have received the District newsletter with lots of important information concerning due dates for your reports. Remember to share! When mailing, PLEASE try to mail as soon as you can since things are rather unpredictable these days.

I hope you find time to gather with family and friends this holiday season. I’m looking forward to “Experiencing the Magic of HCE” with you next year.

REMEMBER: TIME is the only currency you spend without ever knowing your balance. Spend it wisely.



# Champaign

Many of us from Champaign County attended the District 2 Meeting held in Springfield on August 6th. Our group contributed to the seasonal table decorations which also reflected the “Make Time” theme for 2025. We learned the 2026 theme will be “Experience the Magic”. A special meeting was held on August 20th for presentation and vote on reviewed and revised bylaws. All bylaws were approved as presented.

We began September with the lesson “Where to Start: Declutters Your Home and Finances” presented by the University of Illinois Extension educator. We learned about the “OHIO” system of “One In, One Out” when decluttering paperwork. Our cultural arts show was held on September 22nd. There were many wonderful materials for us to see and determine which items to submit to the state conference. The event was held at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building where we are very fortunate to hold all of our events.

October 3rd found us having a game day for membership where games were played, puzzles were assembled, and tasty treats were had. We followed game day with a collection of items for “Baskets for Newborns”. We assembled five large baskets of infant supplies which were taken to Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana for HCE week October 13-17. The baskets were presented to the first baby born each day Monday through Friday of that week. Because of the overwhelming donations of diapers and wipes we were able to donate those items to the Crisis Nursery of Urbana where they were happily accepted. Our annual meeting was held October 27th. We are happy to have had Angela Hicks, - IAHCE President and her husband, Steve, Karen Cahill-District 2 Director, and Sandy Severe as guests. More bylaws which had been reviewed and revised by the bylaw committee were presented for voting on and passed. Elections for the board of directors of CCHCE were held with the following positions being filled:

President– Melissa Chitwood

2nd Vice President– Carol Froeschl

Volunteer Hours Chairwoman– Rebecca Gatewood

Appointed to Public Relations (including the Chatter editor and mailings): Rhonda Costa

Thank you to those who are outgoing board members as well as to those with new positions and those continuing in their current roles.

We have collected socks which will be delivered on November 4th for the patrons of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. This is our second collection of socks we have participated in as part of our Family and Community Issues efforts. Our 10th Annual Holiday Trees and craft sale will be held November 7-8th. There are 17 vendors participating including several from CCHCE as well as other vendors from the community. Included in the events will be a bake sale of items made and contributed by members. Also, Christmas trees, wreaths, and gift baskets made and donated by the various units will be sold as a silent auction. On December 4th we will have our international event with a presentation about South Africa, this year’s area of concentration. We’re looking forward to having a dessert, South African Roly Poly apricot dessert made from an authentic South African recipe.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Costa



# *DeWitt*

Hello from DeWitt County!

We don't meet in July since it can be so hot so we take a break!

On August 6th, six of us went to Springfield for the district workshop. We always have a good time and enjoy a good lunch. We learned our country of study will be the Dominican Republic in 2026. We were entertained by a skit from our state officers for us to take time to Experience the Magic. On August the 19th we hosted a tea party held at our local library. We had a total of thirty-three attending, including our members and guests. Among those were Angela Hicks— state president, Melissa Chitwood— state treasurer, Karen Cahill— district 2 director, and Alice Grooms— state second vice president. We felt very honored to have so many state officers attend. We also had quite a few attend from Macon county. WE were also happy to get a new member and to welcome back a previous member. Our 2nd Vice, Nancy Sprague came up with the idea of a tea party and a few of our members helped her make it happen! It was very successful and everyone had a good time!



September 17th was our international day held in Decatur. Our country of study was South Africa and eleven of our members attended. It was a very good meeting and we discovered South Africans eat pretty much like we do. Our unit was in charge of making carrot cake for dessert and it was good. We enjoyed hearing about the travels of Mike and Jennifer Mitchell and seeing the pictures they shared with us of the animals of South Africa. Our next speaker was Jean Brady from our unit. Jean and her husband lived in Africa for four years so she was speaking as someone living an ordinary life there. She shared many interesting stories of things they encountered while living there.

## *Livingston*

Livingston County HCE held their annual meeting in April at the Family Kitchen Restaurant. Brunch was served and the program was given by Sara Attig on chair Tai Chi. Members were encouraged to participate. All the officers from the previous year once again stayed in their positions. The scholarship committee presented two scholarships which were given at the 4-H/Ag fair. HCE once again had basket raffles which help sponsor the scholarship.



The month of October is time for a joint meeting of all the units. Rooks Creek Starlights and Pleasant Ridge units served as hostesses. The program was given by board member Jean Gaspardo on South Africa our area of study for the year. Jean was Dean of Law students at Loyola and would take her students on trips each year during spring break. When going to Africa, she decided to go a few days early and take a photo safari through the area. The objective for the students besides an enjoyable vacation was to learn something about the law in the country. She was able to have her students sit in on a landmark case during their visit.

They also learned a lot about apartheid and the disparity between the rich and poor of the country. They managed to find unique souvenirs that the people made themselves and an enjoyable visit to the coast where they were able to see a variety of animals including penguins.

Photo— Jean Gaspardo in her safari hat holding a mobile of carved birds that she bought while in South Africa.

# *Macon*

We have been a very busy group of members since the last newsletter! Carol Ropp presented a very interesting lesson about the Bachrach Mansion, a Decatur landmark. It was built in 1910 for Charles Powers. The Bachrach family bought and restored the mansion in the late 1980's and the early 1990's. It was sold by the Bachrach family and is currently known as the Powers Mansion.

Several of our members and their husbands worked diligently at the Farm Progress this year. This was the year that the show was here. Next year it will be held in Iowa.

Our International Day was held at the Baptist Church because our Extension office is being remodeled. It was a big success! The room was transformed into a South African wonderland of their culture. We published some of the recipes in our newsletter for November and December.

We all enjoyed HCE week this year. It all started with a tour of the Linco Theater. I was not able to attend, but those members who did go said it was quite wonderful what the volunteers have done to restore the old theatre.

Our very talented president, Liz King, and her helper, Bonnie Lanham, presented a very delectable lesson about casseroles. There were handouts about the recipes so we could prepare them at home. The best part was tasting the recipes that she made for our lunch.

We had Ed Walker, an antique dealer, told the group a little bit about himself and what an estate dealer does. Liz King, our president, presented a fun and interesting lesson, about new ideas for cooking, and how to use puff pastry to accomplish that. It was very entertaining and an educational week.

Our Fall Meeting was great! There were reports from all of the officers, installation of new officers, and a luncheon catered by Richland Community students. We also had presentations by representatives of the Macon County Honor Guard, a dedicated group that we monetary support, Amber Kaylor, the chief executive officer of the Ronald McDonald House Charities, another group that we support with our pillowcases and pop tabs, among other items that they need. Another speaker was Tammy Buse from the Extension Office.

Upcoming events are the mini-district meeting, led by our own Karen Cahill, District 2 director on the state board. This meeting will be held at Frist Baptist Church in Decatur on November 5. We will share from ideas, learn updated news from the IAHCCE, and enjoy a delicious taco salad, and Mexican fried ice cream. Another upcoming event in December will be a lesson about fingerprinting.



# McLean

Greetings from McLean County!

The new program year started with “Death by Chocolate” in September. In October units learned about “Let’s Talk Pumpkins” while November was “Herbal Teas”. December will have a county wide holiday party in Downs, IL with brunch, bingo, make-it take it, and much more. Minor lessons each month on South Africa covered nature, wildlife, tourism, foods, traditions, government and flags.

Cultural Enrichment programs in mid-October took members and guests to Weldon Springs (State Park) one room school house followed by lunch at LaTea Da Tea Room in Clinton and shopping. In November, the popular “Cookie Exchange” will help fill freezers for the holidays.

HCE continues to raise money for the HCE scholarship fund and several community service projects. The HCE Attic Treasurers and bake sale was held at the Interstate Center in Bloomington in the mini-expo building on September 25 and 26. Many shopped “til they dropped” for wonderful bargains and delicious goodies! The Fannie May in-store fundraiser is scheduled for December 5th in Normal. This is a highly successful HCE fund raiser and we get to talk to the “chocolate” public about HCE. Our bake sale booth has been at the downtown Bloomington Farmers Market (August) and at the Downs Farmers Market (September). We look forward to our bake sale booth to being at the El Paso Fall Festival in October and the Old Rugged Barn Christmas event in December. We pass our HCE information with each purchase made.

The Humane Society of Central Illinois benefits each month from members contributions– recently two pocket folders, copy paper, paper towels, bleach, pet food, new hand towels, and gift cards. The Read and Share group met to discuss the books “The Women” by Kristin Hannah and “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt. The community service days group meets almost every month making Christmas stockings and strip blankets this past fall.

On October 9th, International Day was held at the McLean County Farm Bureau, Bloomington. Virginia Gobe-li talked of her experiences of working with home economists in South Africa in 1996. Kathleen Emery showed us beautiful pictures of the safaris she went on and many aspects of South Africa today that she experienced. Special displays of South African culture were available and tasty African foods were sampled.

During HCE month in October, units made displays and posters at libraries and post offices and had special activities in their communities such as taking baked goods to area food kitchens.

For updated information and more details, visit our media sites:

Website: [www.mcleanhce.org](http://www.mcleanhce.org) and LIKE our Facebook page at: [McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education](https://www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education)

See you in McLean County! Come visit!

Barb Jurgens, McLean County PR Committee



## Morgan

Morgan County's HCE members learned about South Africa at our International Day on October 16 at the Morgan County extension office. Joyce Ginder, International Chair, decorated with table covers featuring South Africa's colors and South African flags. She shared information about South Africa and challenged us with a trivia contest. Our speaker was Diane Webster who had lived in a small town near Cape Town, South Africa for several months a several years ago. The whole family include their two children lived there while her husband worked at a colored school for the blind.

Diane shared her impressions of South Africa-not as a tourist- but as a temporary resident who interacted with the local people. At luncheon time we sampled delicious South African food prepared by some of our members. We were pleased that two of our past presidents were able to attend. (Pictured left- Sharon Middendorf and Nada King)

Martha Vache

President and Public Relations



## Piatt

### Quiet Quilts Request Ready to be Filled!

Our Piatt County AHCE has been busy this summer! We have been working to create 6 quiet quilts designed specifically for men to use. These quiet quilts are now completed and have been donated to the *Arbor Rose of Monticello Memory Care Facility* located at 1009 South Irving. Our members met at Miriam Seevers' home sewing room on 3 different Thursday mornings in order to recycle the materials that had been collected in order to create these unique quiet quilts. Thanks go out to Martha Lynch, Miriam Seevers, Carol Drayton, Elaine Ginalick, Frances Kurr, and Kathleen Glenn for taking the time to help with this successful community outreach project.

### Delivery of 6 Quiet Quilts to Arbor Rose

Robert Kingston earlier this year requested that our Piatt County AHCE donate 6 Quiet Quilts designed especially for men. Robert is living at Arbor Rose along with several other men. These quiet quilts were delivered to Robert and Arbor Rose on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Robert Kingston and the staff of Arbor Rose expressed their appreciation for the delivery of these well-designed quilts. We hope that all of the men at Arbor Rose enjoy using our quiet quilts.

### NVON Annual Conference Held in Springfield, Illinois

Two of our Piatt County AHCE board members attended this NVON (**National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.**) Conference on July 8-10, 2025. A variety of speakers were presented throughout the two

final days of this conference. Kathleen Glenn and Carol Drayton also attended several informative workshops. The one workshop that was of most interest to us was the

**“Wits Workout”**, an engaging, interactive, and educational brain health program written and researched by Molly Hofer, Celsey Byers Gerstenecker, and Cara Allen. All 3 authors are University of Illinois Extension Family Life Educators. (We are bringing this informative Facilitator’s Guide home with us in order to present this information to our Piatt County membership in 2026.)

**Attending this associated conference was well worth our time and effort!**

**Piatt County AHCE is working to support our 4-H Program:**

Ava Marshal, a 4-H member from the Cisco Clovers 4-H Club of Piatt County, is our Illinois State Delegate to the Illinois State Fair for the Heritage Skills Division of the Tri-County 4-H Show Competition. Ava created a beautiful cover for her sewing machine. She decided on putting pockets along the edges in order to hold her sewing supplies. We hope that Ava will enjoy her new pair of Gingher scissors, presented by Piatt Co. AHCE.

August 26-28,2025 **Farm Progress Show** in Decatur

Carol Drayton and Kathleen Glenn worked for a total of 25 ½ hours at the 4-H Food Tent. These two ladies worked from 7 am to slightly after 1 pm putting sandwiches together and wrapping them for the noon time food sale. Hot dogs, pork burgers, pork chop sandwiches, cheese burgers, and beef kabobs were coming off of the grill hot and heavy. Yes, our farmers tend to order a lot of 4-H sandwiches during the lunch hour. Delicious and Speedy was the name of the game! The money, a little over \$200.00, that these two members earned working at the 4-H Food Tent, was donated to Piatt Co. AHCE!

August 9,2025 the **Piatt County Historical Museum Quilt Show**

August 9,2025 the **Piatt County Historical Museum Quilt Show was held** at Deland-Weldon High School. Carol Drayton, Miriam Seevers. Kathleen Glenn, and Kathy Harris came to man the tables at this annual Piatt Co. Quilt Festival. Our cookie makers (Carol, Kathleen, and Kathy) brought cookies to share with the local residents and their guests that came to the quilt show. They collected almost \$200 in donations which has been placed in the Piatt County AHCE treasury. We also had a sales table where our membership could bring craft projects, etc. to sell. A Memorial Display of Quilts made by Evelyn Eads, a Piatt county AHCE member who passed away this year, was a special additional highlight of this year’s presentation. Several members of Piatt Co. AHCE attended and/or participated in this Quilt Festival.

August 28,2025 **Piatt County AHCE Board Meeting (planning programs for 2026)**

January: *“Exercise and Arthritis”*

February: *“Balance and Coordination”*

March: *“Positivity and Purpose Later in Life”*

April: *“Afternoon Tea”*

May 14,2026 at 10-11 am: *“Fur Real Companionship”*

June 9,2026 at 2-3 pm: *“Become a Dementia Friend”*

September: International Day: *“Dominican Republic”* (Piatt Co. Hosting)

October: *“Nutrition and Brain Health/ Wits Workout”*

October: *“Microwave Mug Cakes”* (4-H Activity Presentation)

November: *“Christmas Cookies”*



## International Day Celebration:

Thirteen members of Piatt County AHCE were able to attend the Tri-County International Day hosted by Macon County AHCE on September 17, 2025. Here we viewed pictures of South Africa, listened to stories of South African experiences, and learned important facts pertaining to the country of South Africa. These well organized speakers were Mike and Jennifer Mitchell of Okaw Valley Orchard, Jean Brady, Lois Miller, and Cathy Gipson. We also enjoyed a Braai Style South African BBQ prepared by Chef Brian Pehr of Millikin University and a variety of South African side dishes prepared by several Tri-county AHCE members. Congratulations to MCHCE for a job well done!

No, our year is not over! But this article is done for now! You will have to wait until the next IAHCE Chronicle, for the rest of our story which includes our celebration of AHCE week and beyond!



## *Sangamon*

As the cooler days of Fall are upon us we are continuing to have very informative fun Lessons for Living. July's indoor picnic featured Charlotte Wohler giving us the history of the Marbold Homestead and Wayne Beck giving facts on bee keeping. August featured Karen Edwards who displayed lots of her handmade art quilts. So beautiful and something most of us had never seen before. In the heat of September, some braved the temps to visit the Refuge Ranch. This program helps empower at risk youth and their families with hope, healing, and transformation in Christ, using equine assisted activities and mentoring. Our usual participation at the Marbold Weekend fundraiser September 6 and 7 was a great success. Baked good, books, and home-made items including rag rugs helped raise money for our volunteer outreach projects. A big thanks to all members who participated in some way.

Our country of South Africa study concluded on October 6 with International Day. We had two informative speakers, Riley Womble and Linda Bollenson, who had visited there in recent years. Sue Garrett, international director, and her crew had festive decorations and native food. Our October monthly meeting was held at Pumpkin Creek Farm just east of Springfield. It was a lovely Fall Day. Many stayed to enjoy lunch and participate in fun activities.

November's program will feature Marble in a Fishbowl. This book written by a retired teacher offers gems of wisdom speaking to children and family members with stories of her experiences visiting grandparents on the banks of the Mississippi River. We end this year with our annual Christmas party at the lovely Illini Country club, same venue as last year. Everyone agreed it was such a fun event. It will include entertainment by the same group as previous : EMC members Deborah Stoneburner, Tim Garman, and Mark Ritterbusch. Our cultural enrichment coordinator, Thelma Harms, and her committee will also judge handmade items to be entered at the state meeting in March.

Although we don't have project days in November and December because of holidays, Debbie Yeaman, community outreach leader, reminded us that we have two projects to complete. For Veteran's Day, we will deliver bags to the Spring Street Veteran's Home. They will contain items such as books, patriotic pens and notebooks, hats, and popcorn. Like last year, we will also be putting together Christmas bags for the twenty-five residents of Walnut Hill Apartments in Rochester. Bags will contain things like fabric jar openers, socks, baked goods and candy.

Happy Holidays to all.

Public Relations, Brenda Dutcher



## *Tazewell*

We have certainly been "Making Time" for HCE in Tazewell County for the last four months. As last reported, our HCE food stand at the 4-H fair was the last week in July. Once again, we fed our hungry 4-H exhibitors, their families, and visitors to the 4-H fair. This event is our only money-making activity at the county level and many of our patrons look forward to partaking of our affordable, delicious fair food each year! For the third year running, the Tazewell County 4-H lemon shakeup stand was consolidated with our HCE food stand benefiting both groups.

Five of our board members attended the District 2 meeting in Springfield on August 6th. Immediately following, we had our kickoff for our 2025-26 HCE year with a lesson on pumpkins inspired by Jane Chapman's "Let's Talk Pumpkins!" share shop at the IAHCCE 2025 Annual Conference. Our Terrific Tuesday lessons became Wacky Wednesday this year and included pumpkin farmer, John Ackerman of Morton, giving a presentation on pumpkins and his family farm, Ackerman Family Farms. We followed the presentation with a pumpkin potluck with our board members making many of the recipes from Jane's lesson and other members sharing some of their pumpkin dishes. Feedback from those attending was very positive, but we learned we will need to adjust the timing for future evening potlucks.

This year we had only two members attend Illinois Homemakers Craft Camp at the 4-H Camp in early October. Next up, we had our Welcome to South Africa International Luncheon. We watched a YouTube travel documentary called “South Africa Like You’ve Never Seen It — Beauty & Risk Collide”. While the video was a bit long (just over 52 minutes), everyone enjoyed it. The production and content are of excellent quality, making it highly recommended. Before the lunch buffet line opened, our members told us a little about the South African dishes they made to share with us. Each person who attended received a South African commemorative coaster and their choice of South African Green Rooibos tea or Double Red Rooibos tea. We had twenty attendees, which included two guests. We also collected our Friendship Project Funds from each unit.

As always, as the end of the year approaches, year-end reports and preparations for the new year are keeping us busy. We are looking forward to the IAHCE 2026 Annual Conference.

Until next time, here’s wishing everyone Joyous Holidays and a Happy New Year!

*Denise Jatho, Tazewell County Public Relations Director*



*Wacky Wednesday*



*South Africa Intl Luncheon*



# DISTRICT 3 NEWS

## DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards



Hope you had a great fall and look forward to the holidays.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> IAHCE Conference will be at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham March 17 – 19, 2026. Watch for more information in the December IAHCE Chronicle or within the President packet that was mailed to each County President around November 15<sup>th</sup>. Presidents, if you have not received this packet by the time you received this Chronicle, please contact me.

Our next District 3 Mini Meeting will be Tuesday, June 30, 2026. 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 look for the invitation that will be sent in May.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> term as your District 3 Director is quickly coming to an end. Per the IAHCE Bylaws, state board members can only serve (2) 3-year consecutive terms. We started the process of finding a replacement at the District 3 Mini Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact me or see me at the 2026 24 Annual Conference.

I find it amazing to see the diversity of the counties within District 3. We are all different but, at the same time, we all strive to achieve the IAHC 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 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, March 17 – 19, 2026 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

District 3 Mini Meeting–Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia.

District 3 & 4 August Workshop–Thursday, August 6, 2026, at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 2026 Annual Conference.

Have a great Christmas Season,

Donna Richards, District 3 Director



## *Crawford*

On Flag Day, the Morning Glories Unit hosted a perfect picnic: beautiful weather, delicious food, and great entertainment. All free of charge. Mike Bailey spoke about his military years. 24 attended.



County HCE members handmade 34 sock monkeys for the residents at Arbor Rose Memory Care facility. The residents LOVED them!



Members transformed 130+ Twinkies into Minions! These cuties will be given as gifts to women getting mammograms the month of October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Lydia Bailey, Caroline Coleman, Hope Dennis, Martha Holt, Susan Allison, Donna Newbold, Barb McCoy, and Norma Thompson

Crawford was grateful to have District Director #3, Donna Richards attend to install our officers:



Left: Donna, Susan Allison - President; Donna Newbold - Secretary; Sandy Bryans - Treasurer; Norma Thompson - Family Life; Martha Holt - International; Hope Dennis - Public Relations. Not pictured: Cultural Enrichment: Marcia Elder

## *Effingham*

The last few months, members of the Effingham County HCE have been busy working on community outreach projects. Last year, we started the shoebox bags project. We make bags, using 1 yard of fabric, cut into 3 equal straps, cut off fabric for straps, and then sew. These bags are then put inside the shoeboxes that are packed with other items for the Operation Christmas Child. We have an area youth group that request these bags to put in the shoeboxes that they pack. We have a grade school class that packs these shoeboxes as part of their community service hours and they have requested bags. We also have a church group that we provide bags for their shoebox project. Any left over bags are then donated to the area packing and collection destination. Always fun to see what that yard of fabric looks like when sewn up.

Another project we started this year is the Valentines for seniors. Members are making valentines by using card stock as their base and embellishing it with lace, ribbon, buttons, hearts made from scrapbooking paper, and anything blingy. Each member was asked to make five valentines. "Kits" were made for those who felt less "crafty". Each kit (zip lock bag) contained a finished sample card and all the supplies to make the five valentines. All the members had to do was glue everything together. We then added verses to the inside of the valentine. We also held a "card day" on September 11, where some of the ladies made the kits while others did their "own thing". All the supplies were furnished. We presently have over 450 valentines (was hoping for 200) that will be distributed to area residents in healthcare facilities in February.

On October 23 we held our annual meeting consisting of a soup luncheon, side dishes, and desserts. Representatives from Weber's Jewelry of Teutopolis gave a presentation on the pros and cons of natural diamonds verses lab grown diamonds. Donna Richard's District 3 Director, was present to install the officers for 2025-2026.

Mary Beth Hoene



# Fayette

Hello Everyone from Fayette County!!!

I hope this finds you well and enjoying life as we are heading into a busy season, but remember that God and your family come first. Remember to hold them tight. As I reflect on the past couple of months with things that are going on in my family, you should always tell your family that you LOVE them more than life itself because you may not get that opportunity again. We are not promised tomorrow.

Our July (outing month) started with the NVON Conference. A good time was had by those that attended. Some of our members worked in the women's building watching over projects done by 4-H kids and community members at the Fayette County Fair. Then in August, we started with district meetings (always love those meetings) getting to see the theme for the conference in March. School started and all of us had to get back on track with the swing of things and a school schedule.

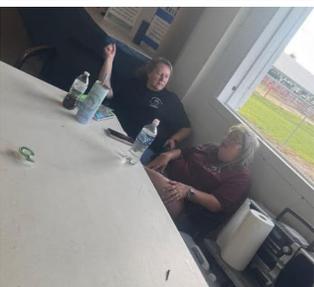
September came in without a hitch. International Day happened with our country of study being the Ukraine. We had a fabulous speaker and learned amazing information. We were all amazed at how different parts of the world work.

October came in hot. For HCE month we started planning a float for the Halloween parade. We made a plan and started pulling it together. The theme was The 50's. It was fun watching it come to life as we worked on it. Our float looked pretty good considering we didn't know much on how to pull a float together. We ended up getting the BIG NEWS that we got 4th place and won a prize of \$125. So I guess for being amateurs, we didn't do too bad! We also did a kids craft day at a fall festival before it got rained out. We had a great time working with the kids that came through our tent.

We have lots of exciting things coming up in November and December. November is our Cultural Arts Fair on the 8th and then Ole Tyme Christmas where our units can sell some of their crafts and other things that they have made to make some money for their unit. The most exciting thing, takes place on the 22nd when Ashely Davis renews her wedding vows! E can't wait to see how beautiful she will look and how handsome Don will look as well.

December we start off the month with our annual meeting and Christmas party. We will then take some time for ourselves with our savior's birthday and will celebrate all things that are important in our lives.

Have an amazing rest of the year and remember to HUG someone today and everyday! Remember you are LOVED! Go out and be awesome!



## *Jersey*

Pat Wieseman from Madison gave us a lesson on Aprons. It sure took us back to grandma in her kitchen. We had a workshop at the Library on crocheting. We are starting the new Granny Square Christmas tree for uptown Jerseyville. It's about 24 ft. and we are in our 3rd year of helping. Chad Ingram, a Jersey county resident came and showed us some of his beautiful crochet work. He had the record in the Guinness World Record for the largest granny square. He is legally blind and it took him 8 months to crochet the square.



We will be having a workshop every Sunday at 1-3 pm at the Germania coffee shop till November 16. This is the deadline for the granny squares. It's a four inch square of any color or design but the last roll has to be green. We've had donations from all over the US. If you want to donation squares or have questions contact Sandy Bechtold. We made a wooden snowman signs and in November we will be making Iris paper folded Christmas cards.

## *Macoupin*

Hello from Macoupin County!

This has been our busiest time of the year for us. In August, the first vice-presidents met with Carol Pollo, our county first vice-president, and decided on the lessons for the upcoming year. The lessons for 2026 are: The 8 Dimensions of Wellness, Food-borne Illnesses, Age Matters, Afternoon Tea, Gardening on a Budget, Hydration, Be a Dementia Friend, Chemicals in Food, Coffee, and Diabetes Meal Planning. Training will take place at the County Extension Office.

At this time of year, two members of our board meet to select the recipients of our scholarships. The committee noted that currently there are five applications with more expected. Macoupin County currently awards two scholarships of \$250 each, funded entirely through member contributions.

Vickie Laughlin, our Cultural Arts Chairperson, has been busy holding classes. Vickie held two classes this quarter. One of the items made was a large Christmas ornament made from plastic bowls from the Dollar Tree and then decorated. From the pictures below you can see how pretty they turned out. The second craft was a copper wire and bead Dragon Fly. These classes are held at the extension office in Carlinville.

October concluded with a memorable Founder's Day celebration. The event was truly exceptional and those who attended would agree it ranked among the very best Founder's Day gatherings. A delicious catered meal was served and a silent auction was enjoyed by all. Our silent auctions provided a large part of our income for the year.

We welcomed Karen Cahill, District 2, H.C.E. Director, who traveled from Decatur to install our officers for the coming year. As there was no interest expressed in the open positions, our board will remain the same as this year. A special guest, Cheryl Sample, the cultural enrichment chair from Macon County, traveled with Karen for the day. Our entertainment featured Mr. Lane Harmon and the Carlinville High School Choir, accompanied by Ms. Diane Aiken. The choir performed a wonderful selection of songs.

This year, our county-wide project reached its conclusion with another successful effort to support local animal organizations. Unit members helped collect essential items for both the Macoupin County Animal Shelter and the Benld Adopt-a-Pet. The donations included food, litter, cleaning supplies, rags, and cardboard lids for use in litter boxes.

Through these contributions, we continued to help care for unwanted animals.

The Carlinville Monday-Niters Unit concluded their project for the year. These ladies delivered treats to the Carlinville Police Department, Fire Department, and the County Sheriff's Office. Good work ladies.



## *Madison*

We held three craft workshops since August. One for the fall, one for Halloween, and one for Christmas. We are planning on cutting back on these just a bit for next year. We had our International Night in October. We focused on the country of South Africa. We were blessed with the presence of our state president, Angela Hicks and her husband Steve, former 2nd Vice President, Mary Johnson and her mother.

In September our county hosted their first puzzle race. We had over ten teams participate. The top two teams finished in under an hour. A small group of us went to the Illinois Homemakers Camp in Monticello in October. Four of us taught classes. In September, another small group of us started an ethnic dinner night. Once each month, we visit a different restaurant to try a different ethnic cuisine. In September we tried Indian food at Mr. Curry's in Edwardsville. In October, we went to Dos Bevo's in Bevo Mills, Missouri for German food. We are having Mediterranean food for the month of November. In November, we are starting a monthly special activities outing. The plan is to do different cultural events each month including taking in shows, tours of different museums, etc. Our first outing will be to dinner and a ride on the Polar Express in St. Louis.

As the year comes to an end, we look ahead to February 27th– March 1st when we will have our 5th Annual MCAHCE Craft Camp. The theme is "Deck the Halls with Crafts and Holly". We will be making ten projects including farm trucks with interchangeable beds, tiered trays, a wall hanger, an interchangeable ladder, an interchangeable lamp post sign, a candy jar, a fake bake, and wreath. For a registration packet please email Emily at [emhohl@gmail.com](mailto:emhohl@gmail.com)



# Richland

As days get cooler and shorter, the Richland County Homemakers Education Association is planning a variety of activities for the coming months. The Culture Arts Show, a bus trip, and the holiday bazaar are being planned and scheduled. The Cultural Arts Show will be held at the Richland County Extension meeting room on September 20, 2025 from 9:00-1:00 p.m. HEA members will be displaying their creations in a variety of categories from quilting or knitting to painting or photography. Creativity becomes most evident as members use the normal media to fashion an unexpected item. Canning rings can become a Santa and macaroni will be included in a sea-scape wall hanging. Expect to see the unexpected during this event.



Members and community members are invited to vote for their favorites, eight of which will be on display during the state conference next spring. Voting will be 9-12 with winners announced before 1 p.m.

Information on the bus trip and the holiday bazaar will be shared soon. You may mark your calendars for October 8th for the bus trip and November 1st for the bazaar. As always, you do not have to be an HEA member to attend the show or the bazaar. If space allows, non-HEA members may join us on the bus trip.

On Wednesday, October 8, Richland County Homemakers Education Association members and guests plan to visit two landmark towns in Illinois. Attendees will board a bus at 9:15 that will take them first to Moonshine, a unique restaurant of sorts. The entire population of two in this tiny town prepare their iconic Moonshine Burgers and welcome guests to browse their country store. Then all will travel to Casey to see the giant attractions that have earned the distinction of being in the Guinness World Records. From the beautiful windchimes and the iconic mailbox to the world's longest pencil and ruler, the small town is sure to please the many visitors. Richland County residents are invited to join HEA members on this unique excursion.



# DISTRICT 4 NEWS

## DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms



It is hard to believe we are preparing for the end of the year. The time flies so fast and even though we thought the summer temperatures would never end, just like that, the 80's were gone and it was hoodie and jacket weather. Now I am thinking about my Christmas decorations.

I hope you are working on your end of year reports and awards applications because the deadline (JANUARY 5) is just around the corner. If you are in a county that doesn't send in awards applications, I hope you will make a resolution to try to do one next year. I admit that my county hasn't submitted them for awhile, but I am challenging myself to try it next year. I was just elected public relations and CVH director, so I will have some work to do.

This is my last newsletter post as a district director. It's crazy that March will be the end of my six years as the District 5 and then 4 Director. I really had no idea what the job entailed when Janel Kassing asked me to consider it, but I learned quickly. I just loved this job! You were all so kind and friendly when I visited your counties! I ate the best food and received some wonderful gifts, for which I am very thankful. I enjoyed the challenge of sharing the good news of HCE and trying to inspire (to aspire?) and motivate you to stay involved and get more people to join you.

I learned so much about traveling in southern Illinois and thoroughly loved it. Meeting all of you was a delight and I know I have friends, maybe more like sisters, that I will remember always. I know that you will welcome the next District 4 Director, Cindy Henderson from Pulaski/Alexander counties, as warmly as you did me. Be patient with her as she learns the ropes. She is so excited to get started in this job, and I will pass along as much information as I can so she doesn't have to reinvent any wheels (although she was an automotive technician, so she probably CAN reinvent the wheel).



Thank you again for six wonderful years (5 if you don't count the Covid year). You will definitely see me around at the district meetings and conference, I'm not going anywhere. I am looking forward to starting my new job as secretary of NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network– but you know that, right?) and see where that job takes me. I will be attending the ACWW Triennial in Ottawa, Canada, next spring and I will be happy to share my experience there with you.

Carol Harms, District 4 Director

### *Clinton*

Clinton County has been very busy!  
We had a great turn out for Fr.



Dominic "The Bread Monk" presenting "Bread and Beyond". We love his programs and it was a good fundraiser for the year, with over 100 people attending. Another well attended program of ours was an air fryer program with over thirty attending. It was put on by an extension educator. We had our annual board meeting shown swearing in new officers, done by Carl Harms. We have a bus trip to Alton/Grafton area and a program on Medicare Updates is also scheduled.



Karen Voss

## *Hamilton*

In September the Hamilton County HCE sponsored a coffee lesson on the 11th in the Hamilton County courthouse basement. This lesson was presented by Holy Grounds Coffee. A local coffee and drink truck that was started by Hamilton County natives. The lesson highlighted the different kinds of coffee there are and what makes them so unique. Plus there were free samples!

On October 4th the HCE ladies moved over to the pickleball court and hosted a lesson there. Pickleball Basics and Rules were presented by Amy Moore, a Selkirk Advocate. It was open to all ages on the brand new pickleball courts at the Hamilton County Junior-Senior High School.

Also in October we celebrated HCE Week! A sewing workshop was held on October 14th in the courthouse basement. It was open to anyone— whether you could sew or not. The group worked on lap robes to be distributed to the community's nursing home and assisted living facility. Thirty-seven lap robes were completed. Hamilton County HCE Board president Paula Hatfield presented those to the nursing home.

Finally, to round out the week, a Homesteading lesson was held on canning. It was open to all in the community. It was presented by board president and 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator Paula Hatfield. Peppers and other produce from the 4H Community Garden was used and participants could take a jar home with them.

We have lots of great lessons and activities coming up for the winter months!

## *Jefferson*

Since our last newsletter we have been very busy helping with other organizations in our community.

Hope and Soap: An organization that asked for quarters to provide necessities for life such as clean laundry for those in need once a month. Each family/person is allowed three loads of laundry. We collected quarters in each unit. One homeless lady cried as she got to wash her car blanket for the first time in six months.

Youth Build: Is a program for youth and young adults. It provides training and educational opportunities to help them obtain their GED or obtain their high school diploma. They gain experience in construction and other trades. We collected easy to serve items for lunch that they could microwave or that wouldn't need refrigeration.

Amy Center: Provides a place for children who are victims of sexual abuse. We provided over 300 quilts to comfort them and belong to them. They will be our friends of HCE at our annual meeting.

Family Life Ministry: Provides a warming center/shelter for adults (men and women) and helps them obtain ID's, a GED, jobs, and homes. We provided paper products to them.

Meals on Wheels: Delivers meals to homebound people, giving them one good meal a day. We delivered food to them on Mondays.



Ag in the Classroom: Is a program in which a person from the Farm Bureau teaches in the area schools how agriculture plays a part in our daily lives. We helped assist in the local schools with this program.

Educational Opportunities: We toured the C.E. Brehm Library to learn all about the opportunities they offer besides books. They have cake pans you can borrow, a large genealogy library, puzzles, and an area for people to use the internet and computers.

The Mt. Vernon Police Department shared all their facilities and presented an inadapt lesson on scams.

We helped with the 4-H BBQ by furnishing cookies and buying meals.

We learned about houseplants and food wastes from the University of Illinois.

We took a bus trip to Alton where we learned about their old homes and river lore.



## *Johnson*

The Johnson County Home & Community Education Association has been busy this fall!

On September 24th, members & guests of the Longview, Ozark & Tunnel Hill units met at the University of Illinois Extension Office for their annual all-units meeting. This year's meeting was a Wreath-Making Workshop. The workshop lesson was taught by Sheila Harper, owner of Secret Garden in Vienna. Sheila has been serving the community for over 25 years. She guided the group step by step demonstrating and explaining the process that led each one in the experience of creating their own fall wreath. Determination and excitement filled the room as the wreaths were coming to life! Participants were thrilled to go home with their wreaths to add to their fall decor! Plus, the group enjoyed a salad luncheon, which ended with a wonderful dessert! It was a fun day!!

On October 14th, members & guests of the local units gathered for International Night, coordinated by Lisa King, International Director. This event is a part of HCE Week. This year's county of study was South Africa. A potluck meal, which included some South African dishes made by HCE members, was enjoyed by all in attendance. Bryan Throgmorton was the guest speaker. Bryan has spent seven (7) years, serving as a missionary for Heart of Africa's Project Canaan in Eswatini, formally known as Swaziland. He shared some very interesting facts about the country & the Heart of Africa program, as well as his personal experiences at Project Canaan. During his seven years, he was Program Director for the entire group of children residing at Project Canaan and the house leader for 30 boys who entered the program under the age of two at the beginning of his tenure. Bryan will be returning this fall to witness the boys' graduation from junior high school. Faye Mize and Rosemary Rouse, members of the Johnson County HCE board and the Tunnel Hill unit, had the opportunity to travel to South Africa in 2018. In addition to visiting various parts of the country, they also visited Bryan at Project Canaan. They were his first American friends to visit, and he was an excellent host and tour guide. They each shared some of their memories.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Johnson County HCE organization, please contact Natalie Dougherty, Board President @ (314) 803-4881 or [ndbasket88@gmail.com](mailto:ndbasket88@gmail.com).



Participants showing off the wreath they made!



Rosemary Rouse, JCHCE Board Member;  
Lisa King, JCHCE International Director;  
Bryan Throgmorton, Guest Speaker; and  
Faye Mize, JCHCE Board Member.

## *Massac*

August Outing: Massac County HCE and guests visited Rolling Oaks Alpaca Ranch near Makanda, IL. The alpacas enjoyed our visit and they ate well! We got to see and purchase some nice alpaca products that Rolling Oaks offered. We had 25 members and guests to attend. After the alpaca farm visit, we ate lunch at Giant City Lodge. Some stopped by “The Farm” in Anna, IL, on the way back home. Mitzi, thank you for making all the plans for the day!!!

The Massac HCE Council discussed the information from the District 4 meeting held in Mt. Vernon, that Norma Korte & Dorothy Holt brought back to the officers. It was suggested that committees be setup to help the different directors. “Labor of Love” cards were the Community Outreach project for September. Thank you to each unit for providing cards. Collectively, we gave out 280 cards!

Along with a card, word searches and a small treat were given to each person at the assisted living and nursing homes in the county. The residents really appreciated the cards and thoughtfulness. Thanks to Judy Parr and Judy Ferguson for delivering the cards. Community Outreach for October is to support Veterans in the county. We are collecting socks, wash cloths, soap, snacks, pencils, paper pads, etc. We will be preparing around 48 bags to be delivered November 11.

Tentative plans are to host the International Event on November 1, 2:00 p.m. at St. John’s Church. Leigh Glass will be presenting the program on South Africa. Leigh was raised in South Africa and still has family there. Food samples of the country will be available. Invite guests to come and enjoy the afternoon as we visit South Africa. Recipes have been given to council members for the units to provide samples of the country’s food.

October 13-17 is HCE Week. Put a Purple Ribbon on your mailbox and send out messages to your Facebook friends to tell them what HCE means to you.



## Monroe

In honor of HCE week, Monroe County HCE shared 492 new and “gently used” books with children in need. Books were delivered to Children Frist Learning Center in Columbia, Innovations Early Childhood Center in Waterloo, Uni-Pres Kindercottage in East St. Louis, and Little Free Libraries in Waterloo. Children were invited to choose books to take home, encouraging them to discover the magic of reading. Thanks HCE!



Monroe County HCE presented a program “The Impact of Substance Abuse on Families” (Alcohol, drugs, or prescription medications). The public and HCE members were invited for a presentation plus a question/answer session. The guest speaker was Judy Horrell, Truancy and Dropout Prevention Specialist for the Monroe and Randolph County office of education. It was an informative program, learning how our community is being affected by substance abuse. Our speaker shared her interactions with these families. What is being done to help students complete their education by addressing SUDS in local families. Great program!



A proclamation was signed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners in honor of HCE Week. (October 13-18th). Monroe County HCE will be celebrating their 84th anniversary later next month. HCE has been part of Illinois for over 100 years. Pictures from left to right: Douglas Garmer (Commissioner), Ericha Johanning (HCE Secretary), George Green (Chairman/Commissioner), Sandy Patrick (HCE President), Lucille Ohms (HCE Treasurer), and Vicki Koerber (Vice Chairman). Congratulations to HCE!



## Perry

Perry County HCE had an event-FULL year! A group meeting in June was on the benefits of lavender and summer foot care. We had some teambuilding activities led by instructors from the Pinckneyville Hospital that reminded us how important connections are! There was a wonderful presentation by a couple that grow and sell lavender and fabulous products made with it.

The August yard sale at the Thresherman show was a success. The proceeds go toward funding our scholarships. Three scholarships were awarded to students in May. Several county HCE members have been participating in Tai Chi classes held at the community center in September and October led by U of I Extension Family Life Educator, Robin Ridgely.

We had a spooky fall fun group meeting in October. Several attendees participated in the costume contest. We had Bloody Mary (non-alcoholic) punch, Blood Soup (tomato), pumpkin soup, goat cheese, bread, spider brownies, ghost meringue treats and more. A guest from the hospital gave a program on understanding blood test results– what a spooky but fun day!

The bus is headed for St. Louis at the end of October to go to the Arch, a riverboat cruise, the “haunted” Lemp Mansion, and several other activities.



Fifty-eight adult bibs were made by the block-party quilt club and donated to the Veteran's home in Anna. Our holiday idea day will be November 5th with a theme of "A Sweet Time of the Year". A winner of our beautiful Christmas quilt will be drawn that day.

Kindness is contagious. Catch it and pass it on!



## *Pulaski-Alexander*

Our unit has been very busy since the last newsletter. In August, several attended conference in Mt. Vernon. Cindy Henderson was elected to be the new District 4 Director and will take office in March. The unit had a booth at the local county fair as a fundraiser and to promote HCE. A food basket was raffled off. In September we had a booth at the local Cache River Day in Ullin. We sold raffle tickets on a basket of cleaning supplies. The unit has gained three new members of which we are proud. At the October meeting, our president, Amy Kerr, had a craft project for us to work on. We made a door hanging and proved ourselves very creative. Plans for an October bingo night are being finalized. The theme is to be Halloween.



Mt. Vernon, Ill  
Conference

Halloween.

Fish  
Pond  
at the  
Fair



## *Randolph*

The Randolph County Board has had a busy fall. Eight of us attended the District 3 and 4 workshop in Mt. Vernon on August 5 and we had a great time and learned so much.

The Red Bud Nite Unit decorates a lamp post as part of the local Chamber of Commerce's Halloween lamp post decorating contest. We always incorporate the year's theme into our decorations. On October 8th, several members gathered outside Janel Kassing's house (because there is a city lamp post by her front porch) to put their creative juices, markers, zip-ties, cardboard, and whatever else they brought to work for a Make Time creation.

On October 10, some of our board members attended the county commissioners meeting, where a proclamation honoring our 80th anniversary and our dedicated service to the county was read. We had our picture taken with the commissioners and the picture and the news of the proclamation were published in the county newspapers.

On October 16th, we celebrated the 80th anniversary at our annual meeting at the Eagle’s Club in Chester. We welcomed Cindy Henderson from Pulaski/Alexander County, our incoming District 4 Director, as our guest and we honored Delphine Misselhorn as our member of the year. Delphine is a 63-year member of RCHCE who held many offices in her unit and on the county board. She recently turned 90, and we thought it was fitting to honor her. Our county sheriff, Jarrod Peters, was the guest speaker who talked about common scams and what to do to avoid being a victim. Besides the usual business of approving the budget, presenting awards, and electing officers, we had an in-gathering of food and hygiene products for the local food pantries, collected new and gently-used bras for the Support the Girls project out of Edwardsville, and had a silent auction.

Several of us attended the mini-district meeting on November 6, in Pinckneyville to get updates from the district director. Our board meeting in December is a Christmas brunch at President Charlene Woods’ house, and we always look forward to that.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Harms

Make Time lamp post



80th anniversary proclamation with the Randolph Co. commissioners



Charlene Woods, Sherrif Peters, and Joan Wiegand – we sent treats for the sheriff’s staff



Delphine Misselhorn, Member of the Year



## *White*

Can you believe it is only 55 days until Christmas. We have had a busy beginning on our new year. We had our first lesson on gut health which we gave to three White County H.C.E. units at their September unit meetings.

Our October lesson was Death by Chocolate given by Vickie Hobbs and Carolyn Price. It was not only entertaining, but delicious. They gave informative instructions for candy making for the holidays coming. Our guest speaker was Jeff Scaggs who told us about the 1925 Tornado that came through Southern Indiana and Southern Illinois and how it affected families in White County and Hamilton County and how they recovered. He made it very interesting.

Our tables were beautifully decorated by Ludene Taylor as she always does using our theme "Make Time" with lots of clocks. On HCE Week we took snacks to our first responders and can goods and food items to Cherry Street Food Pantry.

We are busy now with our November Fund Raiser with homemade chicken and dumplings with all the trimmings. Looking forward to the district meeting.

Fran Matheny



## Important Dates to Remember

### IAHCE 102nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 17-19th 2026—Thelma Keller Convention Center,  
Effingham

### NVON (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK) CONFERENCE

July 14th-16th, 2026— Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

### ACWW TRIENNIAL

April 26th-May 1st, 2026— Ottawa, Canada

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following candidates were interviewed in October at the IAHCE state board meeting. They will be present in front of the membership at the March conference for the following offices.

## **Darlene Curry of Tazewell County- Candidate for Treasurer**

Darlene Curry has two grown daughters and three grandchildren. She plays piano, keeps the scorebook for the Pekin High School Volleyball Team, and judges speech contests. She's retired after having been a school secretary for 35 years. She also worked in the bookkeeping department of a bank. She's the treasurer of her county HCE, the financial secretary of her church, the secretary/treasurer of its women's group and serves on the IAHCE Support Fund Advisory Committee. She shops for and runs the food pantry in her community. She has been a member of HCE for thirteen years.



## **Amy Kerr of Pulaski County- Candidate for PR/ Newsletter Editor**

Amy Kerr is from Villa Ridge in Pulaski County which is in Southern Illinois. At present she is the president of her County HCE which includes Pulaski/ Alexander Counties. Amy has been a member of HCE for fifteen years. She judges at the Pulaski County Fair and volunteers at a national cemetery during flag and wreath decorating days. Amy is very organized and loves to meet new people.



## **Becky Thomas of Stevenson County- Candidate for PR/ Newsletter Editor**

Becky Thomas was a former District 1 Director for IAHCE. She is a twenty-eight year member of HCE and lives in Pearl City. She is married, has three children and three grandchildren. She has worked in the housekeeping department in the Freeport Memorial Hospital for forty-five years. Becky likes to work on the computer and trying new things. She belongs to two Eastern Star chapters and represents her HCE on the County Fair board.



## **Kathy Peterson of Grundy County- Candidate for First Vice President**

Kathy Peterson is the current First Vice President of the IAHCE state board. She has also served as a District Director. She is an avid member of Grundy County HCE. Kathy lives with her dad and cats. She currently works outside the home. She has really enjoyed the last three years serving as First Vice President and would like to continue in her role. She has some great ideas for the future of IAHCE.



## **Cindy Henderson of Pulaski-Alexander County- Newly Elected District 4 Director**

Cindy Henderson of Pulaski County will be replacing Carol as the District 4 Director after she is installed at the 2026 Conference. Cindy has been an HCE member for 3 years and has worked in the automotive industry for most of her adult life. After 2 former teachers, this will be a change. She volunteers at the Harrison Bruce Historical Village ( interesting!) and is the secretary of the Black Sheep Fiber Guild. Welcome Cindy--we'll be anxious to meet you at our county activities.



**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR  
HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Emily McDowell  
P.O. Box 522  
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