

The IAHCE Chronicle

*Diamonds are Forever, and
so is IAHCE*

Inside This Issue:

Board Member Contact Info – page 2

President's Letter – page 3-4

Executive Board Reports – pages 5-6

Education Reports – pages 7 -10

U of I Educator Report– page 11

District News – pages 12-35

Important Dates– 35

Support Fund- 36-37

Hattie Claire Everywhere– 37-39

Magdie de Kock Feature– 40-41

Conference Recap in Photos– 42-43



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NEWS FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

Angela Hicks – IAHCE President

Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

The “Road to 100” was travelled by many women before us. Words of wisdom were shared throughout our history such as the 1997 IAHCE President **Joan McEachern**. She was quoted as saying, “The continuing search for knowledge and a volunteering spirit is a powerful combination that can make a positive difference in our lives every day.” Each day each of you makes a difference, whether it is within your family, your county HCE group, and/or your community at large. IAHCE survives to not only celebrate 100 years but also to begin a second century for IAHCE, because of all the women (past and present) who felt it was important to educate women in rural areas, and now, in rural and urban areas on such topics as family life, nutrition and wellness, consumer economics, heritage arts and horticulture!



The year-end reports verify that you are making a positive difference. We ended 2023 with 64 counties; 4,026 members; 322 actual gains; and a net loss of 80. Fifty-seven counties reported a total of 412,291 CVH hours. You also supported the NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network) Project in Common “Bee-Cause Pollinators Feed the World” by donating at total of \$5,116.90. We encourage you to continue to support the “Friendship Projects Fund,” which supports ACWW projects and other worthwhile projects within Illinois and the USA, such as 4-H, the International Peace Gardens, and more.

The IAHCE 100th Annual Conference “Diamonds Are Forever and So Is IAHCE” was well attended by the membership and friends from sister societies – Arkansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Oregon, and South Africa. We were honored to have representatives from NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network), CWC-USA (Country Women’s Council) and ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). We were honored to have the ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock from South Africa, and ACWW USA Area President, Bonnie Teeples from Oregon in attendance. The Board thanks all who attended to make this occasion even more special!

Thank you to all of the counties that submitted award applications. Congratulations to the *winner of the President’s 100 Members Challenge*, Madison County HCE, who gained 87 members over the three years leading up to 2024! Congratulations to JoDavie’s County HCE, the 2023 County of the Year-75 and Under Category winner. Congratulations to Madison County HCE, the 2023 County of the Year-76 and Over Category winner.

I want to thank you for your vote of confidence. It is with great honor and appreciation to serve for another three years as your IAHCE President! As I said in my election speech-“it was an honor to be the last President in IAHCE’s first century and now the first President in IAHCE’s second century! My goal then and now is to be positive, encourage membership, and to keep moving forward. Let’s do this together. Let’s remain a strong influence in the local communities in Illinois. BUT IN THIS CENTURY BE PROUD, BE LOUD FOR HCE!!”

Janel Kassing (Randolph Co.) will serve a second term as the International Director. **Karen Davis** (Carroll Co.) will serve her first term as District 1 Director. **Donna Richards** (Jasper Co.) will serve a second term as District 4 Director. Congratulations to you all! We thank **Becky Thomas** outgoing District 1 Director for her serving 2 three-year terms.

Thank you to the Conference Chairs - **Melissa Chitwood** and **Carol Harms**, the Road to 100 Museum Chair – **Kathy Peterson**, and the committee members for a job well done! From the ribbon cutting for the Museum, the Decades Style Show, the “Night at the Oscars” Awards Banquet, the “Puttin’ on the Ritz” Elsie Mies Banquet, the Closing Ceremony with keynote speaker-Magdie de Kock (ACWW World President) and to everything in between - it was a fantastically memorable event!!

What will the 2nd Century for IAHCE look like? Let’s begin by respecting our past while shaping IAHCE for future generations to come!

2024 IAHCE Board

Pictured with Magdie de Kock, ACWW World President



Pictured L to R: Karen Davis-District 1 Director, Kathy Peterson-1st VP, Magdie de Kock-ACWW World President, Donna Richards-District 4 Director, Angela Hicks-IAHCE President, Karen Cahill-District 3 Director, Emily McDowell-PR/Newsletter Editor, Mary Johnson-2nd VP, Ashley Davis-CVH/Sales Director, Becky Belcher-Cultural Enrichment Director, Cathy Eathington-Secretary, Melissa Chitwood-Treasurer, Janel Kassing-International Director, Carol Harms-District 5 Director, Becky Thomas (outgoing District 1 director), Rita Overacker-District 2 Director, and not pictured-Eleanor Gregory-Family & Community Issues Director.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st VICE PRESIDENT – Kathy Peterson

I want to thank everyone for help with the museum and all the stories as people went through. I learned even more. I want to also thank you all for the hugs and prayers that I got after Amazing Grace brought me to tears. The fellowship and kindness in this organization is the reason this group is alive and well.

I mentioned in my officer meeting about time capsules and that I am looking for county, unit, and personal stories that will be shared in 50 years. You will see notes in district letters, the Chronicle, and through officers. Please participate to share the legacy with those that follow and let them understand how important this organization is.

I took the month of April off to organize my thoughts because I had too many ideas racing around and have to find focus and points to make, so I am shining my diamonds to sparkle, with dazzling adventures for 2024.

God Bless!



2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Mary Johnson

The 100th IAHCE Annual Conference was an amazing event! If you didn't attend, you missed days filled with informative share shops, amazing speakers and entertainment, an outstanding Cultural Arts exhibit, the Road to 100 Museum, vendors, singing, wonderful silent auction items, and most importantly, the opportunity to meet and interact with IAHCE members from throughout the state. We were honored to have in attendance the ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock. The President of NVON, our very own Jane Chapman; the CWC Secretary, Karen Bell Fox from Arkansas; the CWC Treasurer, Jo Almond from Indiana and the ACWW USA Area President, Bonnie Teeple from Oregon were also honored guests. IAHCE is building toward the future, at 100 years – we are just getting started!

It was my honor to present the IAHCE Member of the Year to four outstanding members.

District 1 – Marcella Arnold – Jo Daviess County

Marcella was a 70-year member of IAHCE. Unfortunately, Marcella passed away before she could be presented with the award. Her son and daughter-in-law attended the awards ceremony and spoke briefly to our members about this outstanding woman.

District 2 – Kathryn McNeely – McLean County

Kathryn is 60-year member of IAHCE. She has held offices in her unit, her county and served at the state level as 2nd Vice President.

District 3 – Karen Halicki – Macon County

Karen is a 29-year member of IAHCE. She serves in her county as well as on state committees. She is very active in many projects for Macon County HCE.

District 4 – Patricia Vaughan – Wayne County

Patricia is a 66-year member of IAHCE. She has served as her county president for 13 years and also as international chairman. Her mother was also a long-time HCE member.



The IAHCE Member of the Year award applications are due to me by October 1, 2024. If you would like to nominate a deserving member from your county, the application is on the IAHCE.org website. One nominee from each district is selected to receive the reward. EVERY county has at least one member deserving of this award. Please fill out an application so we can honor these outstanding members.

I am happy to report that our membership numbers looked outstanding this year. Your hard work is paying off – 44 of our 64 reporting counties got at least one new member last year! Madison County had 44 new members in 2023! District 4 had 8 counties that attracted more new members than they lost. District 4 boasted a net gain of 58 new members! They have certainly set the bar high for the remaining Districts!

I hope to see you all at the IAHCE District Workshops – August 6-9, 2024. Details will be available soon! As always, the august workshops are open to all HCE members. This is an outstanding opportunity for new members to experience what IAHCE is all about. Encourage all your members to attend. See you in August!

Mary Johnson, 2nd Vice President

SECRETARY– Cathy Eathington

The 100th Annual IAHCE Conference is over and everyone attending seemed to be having a great time. I loved seeing everyone wearing clothes of the different decades, casual clothes Wednesday, and red-white-blue on Thursday. Tuesday and Wednesday night you all looked so pretty in your fancy outfits.

Please continue to send me your updated county officer lists. District Workshops will be held August 6 in Seneca for District 1 & 2, August 7 in Springfield for District 3, and August 8 in Effingham for Districts 4 & 5. HCE Week is October 14-19, 2024.

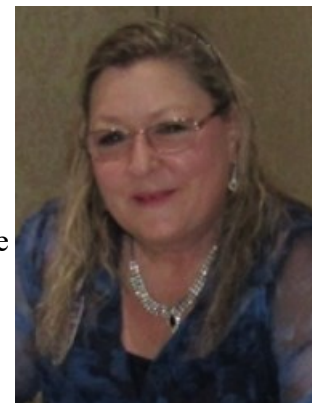
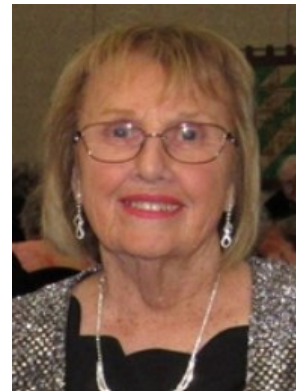
Three state officer positions need to be filled in 2025. They are 2nd Vice (who must have served on the board before), secretary, and Family/Community Issues Director. Please consider applying for one of these positions.

We need Spring to finally arrive in Illinois and to stay. Looking forward to seeing you in August.

TREASURER– Melissa Chitwood

Things have been a “little” crazy for me for the past couple months while finalizing details for the IAHCE 100th Annual Conference. Thank you to everyone who extended me the courtesy of patience and understanding during this time. I am happy to report the conference was a **huge** success. I have said it before, and I’ll say it again. I am NOT a committee of one. Thank you to the ladies on the IAHCE State Board who played a tremendous roll in making sure things ran smoothly and made the 2024 Conference one to remember! I especially want to thank Carol Harms, 2024 Conference Co-Chair and Ashley Davis and all the others for all of the hard work they put in behind the scenes. Also congratulations to Kathy Peterson on an outstanding exhibit of our history; members are still raving about it! Additionally, there were several members and counties who provided valuable time and energy in helping with the conference. Thank you to everyone who pitched in. There were 317 registrations (minus a cancellation and some who were unable to attend) representing 55 counties. Some were there for all 3 days while others may have come only for a day. Based on the state membership as of January 1, 2024 7.8% of the state’s membership was there! We brought back some old memories, like sing-a-longs and the museum display, but then there were new ideas, such as a share shop time to allow members to see the various areas and specific assigned seating at Wednesday’s lunch....and LOTS of opportunities for wardrobe changes!

“A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure.” (H. Henry Kissinger) “Diamonds Are Forever, and So Is IAHCE!” During conference I showed a blank piece of paper. This blank page represented IAHCE’s future. Not because it is not there, but because it is not yet written. This organization exists today 6



because of our predecessors and because of each and every one of us. Yes, we each have our own “pressures” in our HCE lives. Trying to build our membership may seem like a pressure. Trying to get members to run for offices may seem like a pressure. Just trying to get members involved may seem like a pressure to our organization at times. Remember, a diamond is multifaceted and able to reflect the light of beauty in countless ways. Different facets capture the eye of different beholders. Step out of your comfort zone and try new things. Do new and different activities and programs equal new members? Give it a try, use HCE and the beauty of the programs, lessons and activities and so much more to let your sparkle shine! Show your community that “Diamonds are Forever, and So Is IAHCE!”

I will be distributing treasurer transmittal forms at the August District Workshops. In the meantime, if you have any questions, the best way to reach me is via email (mchitwoo@illinois.edu – there is no “D”, it is mchitwoo) I hope to see you in August!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cultural Enrichment- Becky Belcher

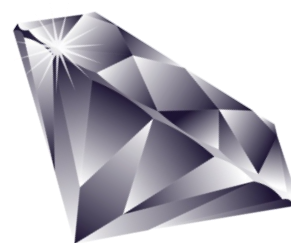
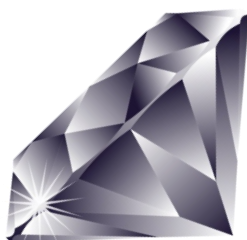


Have you ever looked forward to an event that had been promoted and built-up to be a grand and glorious thing, only to be let down and disappointed by the reality? You anticipated it with excitement and high expectations and it just didn’t live up to the hype? **Well, that was certainly NOT the case of our IAHCE 100th Celebration Conference! It was grand and glorious!** We gathered to celebrate the past 100 years by looking back on past accomplishments and reminiscing about the road that got us here, while we pledged, in our hearts and minds, to continue to march forward, redirecting our thinking and energies, and reaffirming our beliefs in our great organization. AND ... we had so much fun!

A few words about the Cultural Arts Show Wow! Amazing! Beautiful! Once again there were so many beautiful entries! So much talent and hard work represented in that one room. Thank you for allowing us to display your treasures. I was so proud to be able to show off your excellent work. Now, get busy working on next year’s entries!

I’m going to repeat what I included here last May -- a few words about what cultural enrichment means to me and what sort of information and activities I think we should be sharing with our members and our communities. Culture, for our purposes here, is simply a way of life. And to enrich is to enhance, improve, or make better. We immediately think our way of life is made richer through exposure to literature, theater, music, the applied and fine arts. While these things are good and are enriching experiences, I want to suggest to you that the simple ability to take pleasure in the moment in what is all around us, free for the taking, can also make our way of life rich and fulfilling. I’m going to be working on a couple of lists– one that includes ways to expose ourselves to literature, theater, music and art, and another that includes simple every day ways on enriching our way of life.

Have a great spring and summer.



Family and Community Issues- Eleanor Gregory

Greetings!

What a wonderful 100th Anniversary Conference!!! It was wonderful to see so many at this conference. Enjoyed seeing so many first timers! Thank you Melissa Chitwood and Carol Harms for all of the planning that made the conference so special. Meeting our ACWW President Magdie de Kock from South Africa made the conference extra special! Kathy Peterson must be congratulated for all her time and effort to make the 100th Museum at success! Congratulations and Thank You, Kathy!! The Great American Family, Don and Karen Schrader and family from Monroe County made a wonderful presentation about their farm family activities and the history of their 5-generation farm. None of us will forget Jo Jo and his Make-A-Wish experience. We loved seeing your slides and hearing your stories.



In no time at all the August District Workshops will be here. I hope to see you there! All the best, and God bless!

International- Janel Kassing

What a great conference! Hope you were able to join us. If not, you missed a good show. So much fun! If you were there, I hope you understood my swan outfit. The Academy Awards just required a repeat of that unique outfit from (I think) 2001 when Bjork wore one. Just fun!! I loved creating it! I still saw feathers around the hotel on Friday when we left. We collected over \$1000 for the Friendship Projects Fund.



THANK YOU!

Wasn't Magdie a pleasure to meet? We got to visit with her so much more here than in Malaysia. It was a real treat! I did go to her reception in Massac County.

In August, I will announce the 2025 Country of Study after approval by the board in June. If you have a suggestion, please let me know. I have started researching food waste and food deserts for an August lesson. Food waste awareness was a resolution of the 2023 Triennial.

I received 16 projects reflecting what counties did for their International Event to judge. Let's try for 20+ next year. I'd love to see what your county does. I will be glad to go over how to fill out reports in August. If you have questions, I am available to answer them anytime.

I will be attending the NVON conference in July in Asheville, NC and the CWC conference in September in Destin, FL. Next year the NVON conference will be in Springfield on July 8-10. Hope you plan to join us.

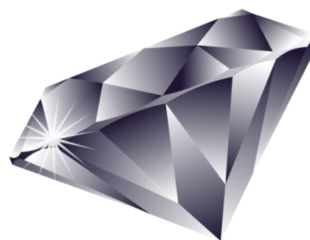
What do I need to review for you? Friendship Projects Fund, NVON/CWC/ACWW, 2023 resolutions from Triennial, Stipends, International Projects to enter? I do need craft presenters for the 2025 State Conference. Do you have a project to share? Please let me know.

Happy Spring,

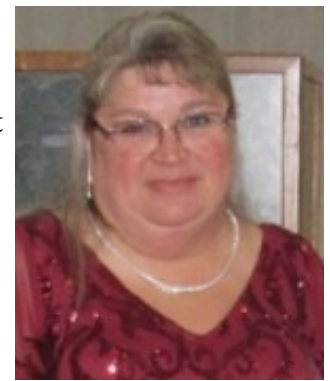
See you in August, Janel

618-977-1175

janelkassing@yahoo.com



Certified Volunteer Hours/Sales– Ashley Davis



As I type this, I am looking out my computer room window, wondering is it going to rain some more or not! The saying is “April Showers bring May Flowers!” The few tulips that were planted here when we bought the property has bloomed and are so pretty. Watching the trees bloom and the flowers pop is so beautiful and I thank God for it all.

It was awesome to see you all at the 2024 100th IAHCE Annual Conference in March! Wow, what a celebration we had! A huge shout out to our conference Chair Melissa Chitwood and Co-Chair Carl Harms, who both did a fabulous job. I have to say I enjoyed the whole week so much. I had to take a nap each day for 3 days after I got home. I was worn out. Thank you to all the members that helped make everlasting memories with us.

So let’s talk about CVH Hours turned in for 2023!!!! How awesome were those final numbers? As always, I am amazed by the dedication to our organization and to the communities throughout the State of Illinois. A huge thank you to all our members. Below is a recap for all over the numbers.

1,748 Members turned in CVH Hours for 2023
71 Members turned in 1,000+ Hours
154,127 HCE Volunteer Hours were turned in by 57 Counties
258,014 Other Volunteer Hours were turned in
412,291 Total CVH Hours were turning in for 2023
57 out of 62 Counties reported CVH Hours
510 Certificates of Recognition are being handed out
183 Gold Seals are being awarded
2022 Hours reported in 2023: 7,847 x \$29.95= \$235,017.65
2021 Hours reported in 2023: 1,106 x \$28.54= \$31,565.24
Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour in 2023: \$31.80
Total CVH Hours Reported for 2023: 412,291
2023 Hours: 412,291x \$31.80= \$13,110,853.80
2023 \$13,110,853.80+ 2022 \$235,017.65 + 2021 \$31,565.24= \$13,377,436.69
Grand Total CVH Dollar amount: \$13,377,436.69

Let’s give a SHOUT OUT to the Counties and Members that took home CVH Awards:

2023 County with the Highest Total Hours Reported Per District

District 1	Stephenson	11,563
District 2	McLean	21,951
District 3	Macon	18,705
District 4	Fayette	25,531
District 5	Perry	14,423

2023 County with the Highest Members Reporting Per District

District 1	Jo Daviess	56
District 2	McLean	134
District 3	Pike	102
District 4	Fayette	68
District 5	Jefferson	100

2023 County with the Highest Percentage of Members Reporting

District 1	Jo Daviess	77%
District 2	Grundy	100%
	McLean	100%
District 3	Morgan	97%
District 4	Fayette	63%
District 5	Pulaski/Alex	100%

Certified Volunteer Hours Grand Award:

County with the Highest Total of HCE Hours:

Fayette County **14,090**

Member with the Highest HCE Hours:

Patty Edwards **2,435** **Fayette**

I want to remind the counties that if your county elects a new CVH Director, please take the time to pass along the CVH information and most of all train the new Director. It is so hard to take on a position that you have never been in and figure it out on your own. Also, be sure to pass along my information to the new Director and let them know to contact me with any questions they may have. That is what I am here for, to help where they may need help.

I hope to see you all again in August and be sure to visit the sales table at the August Workshops!

From my Family to Yours! May God Bless Ya'll

Public Relations- Emily McDowell

Wow, what a wonderful conference! This was probably my favorite, thus far! Kudos to Melissa and Carol for putting on a fabulous 100th Anniversary/Birthday party! (If you were at conference, you would understand what I mean by that). I think the response for Hattie Claire so far has been well received. For those of you wondering what I am referring to, you'll find a pattern for her and information about her in this newsletter.



Now that the 100th Anniversary conference has past, we have to think of ways to continue on for the next 100 years. My tips for you are simple. Why reinvent the wheel when something already good is happening or why not change things up a bit if what you are doing isn't working well? In my own personal county we gained over 80 members in the past three years. While we did lose many of those, we still introduced them to HCE. Just because they left, doesn't mean they won't return. Part of how we gained so many members was because we started doing many craft workshops, classes, and activities. This actually started in 2020, right before COVID shut everything down. Since then we have resurfaced even stronger and our craft events are well attended. The reinvent the wheel part- well here is an example. We started mini barn quilt classes last year. The instructor kind of wanted to change things up and do something different this year, but based on the amount of numbers she was seeing plus the fact that we are still gaining members, was all cause to keep them going.

The change part– we started a wine club in January where we sample wine, learn all about it, eat yummy snacks that pair well with it, and then make a craft to finish out our night. The past three months this was held on a Tuesday with little response. This month we are doing it on a Thursday and our numbers increased from three to about eight. If you see something that is not working in your programming, whether it’s a day of the week change, time change, or simply all together event change, try out something new. It could be your great idea just falls at the wrong time or it could be that your county just doesn’t have an interest. Explore options and I’m sure you will find something that fits!

The board will be meeting in June and then will be seeing you at District Workshops in August. Why not invite some of your members that have never been to come see what it’s all about?

As summer approaches we should be out and about sharing our HCE diamonds with others. My HCE diamonds include love, compassion, humility, sharing, and knowledge. What do your diamonds entail? Be the diamond of HCE and shine for your county this year!

Extension Educator– Cheri Burcham

Greetings and Happy Spring!

I do want to start by saying how much fun I had at the annual conference and how great of a job the organizers did and the whole IAHCE Board! Your organization has great leadership who are hard-working and dedicated to make HCE the best it can be. I also want to say a huge THANKS to the member who helped me in my share shop. She not only took pictures for me on my phone, but then had to advance my slides for me when my “clicker” stopped working – and I never caught her name!!! So I hope she is reading this and sees that I am so very thankful for her help. As your Illinois Extension Liaison, I do have a few things to share about Extension. Currently, there are 769 Extension staff statewide, and the family and consumer science team is doing well with 7 family life educators, 9 nutrition and wellness educators and 1.5 finance educators.



There are a considerable amount of INEP (Illinois Nutrition Education Program) staff also. In 2023, all Extension staff served over 745,000 program attendees with around 555 educational sessions weekly!! 657 communities were served (plus with virtual delivery, that is not just Illinois, but nationwide and internationally), and there are 1799 4-H clubs. You will soon see Extension Units sharing their 2023 Annual reports with these numbers and your local county numbers, so check them out at your local offices. We seem to be doing fairly well financially, with INEP funds being the highest that we receive, followed by state (match), federal, and local (your contributions.) Your gifts and donations make a huge difference, and last year they were matched by the state at 75%! After all these years, we are also persevering, by adapting to our changing communities and advances in technology. Although our numbers in staff have gotten smaller over the years, we continue to find new ways to reach people where they are.

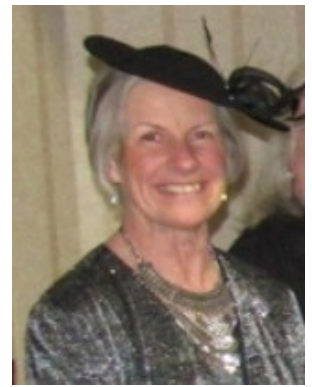
The Lessons for Living are going well for 2024 and your first-vice presidents have voted on the programs we will offer in 2025. Those titles will be released in June and can be used starting December 1. I think you are really going to like what we have to offer coming up and encourage you to attend and/or host the webinars – they are so informational! I look forward to the coming year working with your IAHCE Board members and all of you. Please don’t forget to check out all Illinois Extension has to offer by going to their website at www.extension.illinois.edu. You should always check with your local Extension office first if you have questions, but if they do not have someone to answer your questions, you can contact me at cburcham@illinois.edu or 217-543-3755.

Thank you and congratulations on your 100th Anniversary/Birthday!!

Cheri Burcham

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR – Karen Davis



How did a lifelong *city girl* like me come to embrace country life 18 years ago? In part it was HCE! Before we completed our move from the Chicago area to our country home in Carroll County, we had two visitors knock on our door. First was our local precinct chairperson. The second was our 90+ year old “neighbor”. The first wanted our vote. The latter wanted to offer their friendship and an invitation to HCE. Apparently, age has no bearing when it comes to friendship and HCE. Decades divided us, but common values and interests bridged that gap easily. I was welcomed as the youngest and newest member of the unit, enjoying time with ladies of mostly my mother's generation. What a hoot!

Through Mildred and her HCE unit, I enjoyed field trips, interesting lessons, and delightful fellowship. My first state conference was in 2008. I've attended most of them since.

It's a pleasure to be president of Freedom Unit, a member of the Carroll County Board and now as District 1 Representative for IAHCE. Let me know how I can help YOU with your needs via phone, email, or text. I won't have all the answers, but I think I know people who do!

My Personal Stats: I live on 14 acres north of Mt. Carroll, overlooking a valley of 2,000 acres of lush farmland. We are part of the *Driftless Region*—the area of northwest Illinois that was untouched by the glaciers that sheered the rest of the state. Wherever I hike from home it's up, down, up, down... You get the idea. The Mississippi River is 10 miles away as the crow flies.

My husband, Jeff, was raised on a grain farm in Kendall County. He found *home* as soon as he stepped foot on this little piece of *God's Country*. He busies himself driving a school bus and being maintenance manager for two facilities. We are both involved in our church and community activities.

Our son Jon is raising his five children in Taylorville, IL, and plans to marry Abby on July 5, 2025 (the date of our fiftieth wedding anniversary). My grandchildren are Alex (16), Ben (16), Ezra (12), Irah (11), and Olivia (11). Yes, two sets of twins!

Our daughter Samantha lives and works in Seattle where she attended graduate school and decided to stay in the Pacific Northwest.

Want to know more? Let's do coffee...or ice cream.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your HCE journey.

Karen Davis
District 1 Representative
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Jo Daviess

Members of the HCE units in Jo Daviess County have been busy this winter. Members have been making book bags, which are given to preschoolers. Members have also made Valentines cards for veterans, supported first responders through gift baskets, and honored member Delores Lutes on her 90th Birthday!

Eight members of Jo Daviess County HCE attended the 100th Anniversary of Home and Community Education. Members enjoyed the camaraderie of the conference, the share sessions and the presentations by the speakers.

At the Annual Conference Jo Daviess County was honored as County of the Year (75 members or less).

We were also honored with the late Marcella Arnold being selected as member of the Year. She joined HCE in 1951. Her award was accepted by her son and daughter-in-law Keith and Gayle Arnold. Keith shared words written by his mother, extolling the virtues of HCE. Keith shared that his mother was offered many opportunities through HCE which would not have been available had she not been a member.



Delores Lutes



Jo Daviess members at conference

In the word's of Marcella....

Keith and Gayle Arnold



"75 YEARS OF MEMORIES"

Since Home Bureau was only organized in Jo Daviess County in 1936 my 'memories' are for about 60 years. My first recollection is when Ethel Myers Greenup and my mothers' sister came to our home to try to convince my mother to join Home Bureau. My mother didn't drive and my dad was not much on her spending time at meetings. You guessed it. My mother never became a member. There were five of us kids to look after and a farm to run.

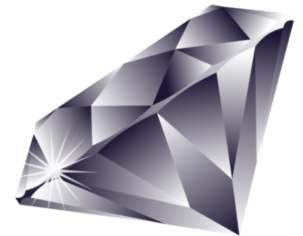
As I grew older I was allowed to become a 4-H member. The Derinda Home Bureau Unit was the support for this Club. One event I remember clearly was the Garden Party held each year by the Home Bureau. This one in particular was held in June on the lawn of Dr. and Mrs. Coleman Buford near Elizabeth and the 4-H Clothing Project girls were invited to do a style show. What an honor especially to even get a chance to be a part of this special occasion with the 'tea' being served from a silver tea pot and all the fancy cookies in a special arrangement on the serving table. We didn't use throw away cups and plates in those days.

This was the introduction to Home Bureau for me. I could see the education opportunities in this organization and became a member in 1951. After all, we were told that 20 years as a member was equivalent to four years of Home Economics if you attended regularly and participated in taking and presenting Lessons provided by the University Extension Service. The yearly Garden Party's or Membership Tea's as they were sometimes called, were still held until some of the older members passed on or no longer cared to host such at their lovely homes with large flower gardens. In those years I made most of my own and my daughters clothes. I participated in another style show at a Garden Party with my young daughter, in the late '50's, each of us wearing a dress I had made. It was during the 'pop bead' era. Remember them?

One Lesson I vividly remember, Refinishing Furniture, given by Virginia Siedel, University of Illinois Extension Specialist. It was a special lesson arranged through the Jo Daviess County Homemakers Extension Association and the U. of I. Extension Service, for the Community. It came at a time when I was refinishing old furniture and could use some professional tips. Since then I have stripped a lot of woodwork, doors, windows, etc. in a farm house we purchased in 1978. There's nothing greater than good wood with a clear finish to make a beautiful house a home.

Living on a farm and raising a family of four gives one little time for "time out for yourself". The Home Bureau/Homemakers Extension Association gave me this special opportunity for a "night out"; learn a new technique, and fellowship with the Neighbor Ladies.

Organizations also have a structure and serving as a Unit and especially a County Officer, you had the opportunity to attend Workshops on Leadership and new programs, led by the state's organization officers. It became a goal of mine to sometime serve on the State IHEF Board. This became reality in 1988. It gave me another opportunity to put my Leadership Skills to work in helping others.



I could write a book on how this organization, the Home Economic Advisors and Extension Educators, local members and the friends I made and worked with on the State Board, National and World Conferences, have helped to mold and enrich my life. This could never have happened had it not been for this great Local - County - State - National - World - Organization known as Home Bureau, Homemakers Extension Association, Family and Community Education, Home and Community Education, National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, and Associated Country Women of the World.



Submitted by:

Marcella Arnold

Marcella Arnold
 Jo Daviess County
 438 South Apple River Rd
 Elizabeth IL 61028

For "Creative Writing" - January 1999

Rock Island

I think spring is finally arriving. The spring flowers bursting in bloom are so beautiful and a reminder that summer is on its way. Speaking of flowers....Rock Island County's main fundraiser is the selling of geranium plants. We started selling plants at the beginning of the year with assistance from the 4-H clubs. Distribution will be the first week in May. A percentage of the plants each club sells is donated to their club.

In April the Cultural Arts Committee will be holding a quilted lap robe tying get together for the county members. This is a good time to socialize with members outside of their unit as they are busy tying the quilts. The completed lap robes will be donated to area nursing homes. We will have a potluck for lunch.

The board is also working on arrangements for our 103rd Annual Meeting that will be held in June.

Better a Diamond with a flaw, than a pebble without.—Confucius

Stephenson

GREETINGS FROM STEPHENSON COUNTY!

In the December IAHCE Chronicle, I wrote about our Stephenson County HCE Annual and International Meetings, which were held on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The very next weekend, Stephenson County HCE members manned the Cub Foods Brat Stand on Friday and Saturday, in order to raise funds for our organization. Over the years, Cub Foods in Freeport has provided this stand as a way for nonprofit organizations to raise money for their treasury. The sign up for the chance to run the stand is in February. Your organization is lucky if you get the chance to operate the stand every other year as there are so many groups signing up for the chance. Then on October 26, we had a booth at the Senior Lifestyle Expo at the Freeport Eagles Club with information on upcoming programs and lessons, copies of past HCE lessons, as well as general information on HCE and how you could become a member. October was a very busy month!

The FHN Festival of Trees was held again this year at the Freeport Public Library and ran throughout the holiday season. Our board decided to participate as this is a very attended and popular holiday event. This year's theme was **"When the MAGIC of the holidays fill the air, we hope you find it everywhere."** We are able to place informational pamphlets about our organization under the tree. We also had a display board that listed all of our HCE 2024 lessons.

Stephenson County's 4-H Super Saturday was held on Saturday, February 24, at the Farm Bureau. Our HCE members had two sessions on making sock bunnies. The bunnies are made from a man's crew sock and filled with dry rice. The kids were supplied with lots of different ribbons, google eyes, cotton balls, and other assorted embellishments, so they could create their own personal bunny. This was a hands-on crafting session. Several HCE members assisted the kids with their creations.

On Wednesday, Marcy 6, we held a program on Domestic Violence at the Farm Bureau. Beth Maskell, Executive Director, Voices of Stephenson County, was the speaker. Voices assists victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as human trafficking victims. They equip survivors with the tools they need to move forward with their lives. This program was open to the public.

On Saturday, March 9, Stephenson County HCE sponsored a program on Pollinators. Jim Ritterbusch, who served Stephenson County as District Conservationist before his retirement, was the speaker. He presented an informative program on how and what plants you could use to create a pollinator plot. He also spoke on setting up a native prairie plot. The two are not the same! He provided information on where to purchase seeds and plants as well as some tips to make your plot a success. This program was held at the Farm Bureau and open to the public.

Well, that's all for this article! Tomorrow morning, several of our Stephenson County HCE member's are heading to the 100th IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham. I am sure I will have lots to write about the conference in my next article. Hope to see you there!

HAVE A GREAT SPRING AND SUMMER!

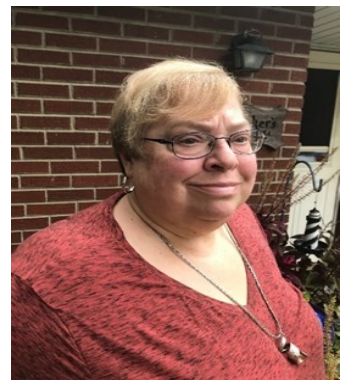
Janice Fryer



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR – Rita Overacker

“Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE” was the theme for the 2024 conference and is our theme for the year. On behalf of all the counties in District 2 and myself, here is a BIG shoutout to Melissa Chitwood and Carol Harms for a wonderful and memorable conference. Also, to Kathy Peterson for the Road to 100 Museum, thank-you! To all the members of the State Board, what a bunch of bright and shining gems. At the conference in March we celebrated 100 years as an organization of strong, shining women making a difference in our state, communities, and world around us. We had some very remarkable women to be our guests at the conference. Magdie de Kock, the ACWW World President from South Africa, was a very delightful woman to visit with and very inspirational. As was Sue Busler, a motivational speaker. I would like to say thank-you to all the ladies in District 2, what a bright and shining group, for your attendance at the 100th Celebration in March. My Hope is that you took home wonderful memories, ideals, and made new friends. NOW SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT HCE !!! Looking forward to seeing each of you at annual meetings and at August Workshop in Seneca, IL.



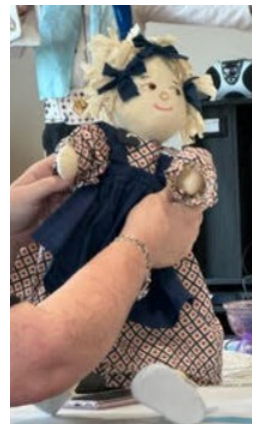
DuPage

Four members attended the 100th IAHCE Annual Conference. Our International Event in late October was not well attended, probably due to the spiciness of the recipes. Malaysia should be better received. Our Community Service days was on November 17th and February 25th. We made Christmas decorations and cards for the nursing home and veterans. Laurine DeMeo, a resident at Saratoga Grove Nursing Home and Assisted Living Center is 103. Her Ethel Marshall Unit intended to make her valentines at their February 6th meeting, but the facility told us they needed to make the valentines for everyone. They made 70-80 valentines. Later we learned that Laurine had passed. She had a good life.

DuPage County President, Mary Lambert, hosted the Annual Christmas Tea at her home. A donation for the food pantry was the admission. Some of us attended the 4-H International Night on March 1st at the fairgrounds. When the Lunch Bunch meets, there might be a few people or there might be a crowd. We went to Egg Yolk Café in West Chicago on November 30th and Maggiano's in Naperville on December 28th. On January 25th, we went to Carol's Garden in Carol Stream, Seven Dwarfs in Wheaton on February 22nd, and Quigley's Irish Pub in Naperville on March 30th for a late St. Patrick's Day meal. Some members tried Three Corners in Downers Grove with another group. That is for future consideration. April 25th will be our county annual meeting.

Grundy

I hope everyone is enjoying the weather. Wind and rain! Seven from Grundy County went to the 100th Celebration in Effingham. We enjoyed ourselves meeting old and new friends. The chair people and IAHCE board did a fantastic job putting the event together. A big hand of applause for everyone who helped make the celebration a time to remember. The share shops and make-it-take workshops were wonderful. We had great speakers, classes and entertainment. The last night was amazing with the band, and a lot of people got up and danced. Our world President of ACWW was there to support us and gave a wonderful speech, along with the CWC-USA President. Every meal there were favors celebrating our 100th. The “Road to 100” museum was fabulous. A lot of work went into collecting scrapbooks, cookbooks, lessons, clothing and so much more. A great job! At conference Grundy received three awards for membership, volunteer hours and International.



We celebrated our 85th year in April at our annual meeting. Our board is staying on for another year. Entertainment at our meeting was performed by Jack Armstrong singing and telling jokes. We are ever so committed to helping in our community even though we are a small unit. Many of our people are involved in other organizations and committees in town. Rita Overacker brought Hattie with her so we all signed her book. One of our lessons was flower arranging in May. The units set out to learn how to arrange cut flowers. We brought our own vases, but the flowers were available to us from Floral Designs. Great job ladies! The instructor made it look so



Kankakee

Kankakee is keeping busy with the many projects they're working on and future plans for tours and other activities, and planning the annual meeting. Plans are being made to spread the word about HCE to the County at the many activities that are happening this Spring and Summer. We are making plans to attend HCE Workshop in August.



Lake

Hello from Lake County,

The second day of spring greeted us with over 3+inches of snowfall. The snow on my deck measured a little over 3 inches. The snow continued for a several hours after and reports of snowfall in my area were up to 4 inches.

My county was very excited to attend the IAHCCE 100-year anniversary Conference. Eighteen percent of our membership made it to Effingham and it was great. The LCAHCE entourage pictured ready to enjoy the Elsie Mies Banquet are; from to right, Steve Hicks, John Weitzmann, Angela Hicks, Candace Keegan, Pat Weitzmann, Shirleyann Russel, Margaret Hilliard, Sandy Henke, RoseAnn Rendl, Jane Ellen Keroson, Ann Drevalas, and Lana Oksnee Keroson.



The tour of Illinois IAHCCE President Angela Hicks arranged for Magdie de Kock, President of the ACWW culminated with a visit to Lake County. Angela, also president of the Lake County HCE, invited LCAHCE members to join her tour of the College of Lake County Horticultural Program and the Golden Oaks Dairy, a working Lake County dairy farm. Photographs follow:

College of Lake County Horticulture Building - The Tour Check What's Growing



Golden Oaks Dairy Farm Welcomes the Tour

The Tour Group in the Milking Parlor



Angela Hicks and Magdie de Kock at the Tour's End

After celebrating with our fellow HCE members at 2024 we are getting ready to hold our Annual Business Meeting at April. It will be very interesting to see how we celebrate this "Diamonds are Forever and so is HCE". Stay well and be next time.



Conference, the end of year's theme safe until



McLean

McLean County units and members have enjoyed a moderate winter season! However spring has sprung and McLean County HCE is on the move!

Local leaders shared with units “Self Defense for Seniors” in January, “Companion Gardening” in February, and “Zero Waste” in March. Minor lessons on Egypt each month include the study of Egyptian Agriculture, People and Demographics, Cities and Pyramids.

The **Friendship/Membership Tea** was held with an attendance of 56 members and 10 guests. The program: “Under the Big Top” was presented by Rainie Themer Bosquet as she explored the fantastic history of the ISU “Gamma Phi Circus Through the Ages.” This event was organized by the Night Owls Unit members.

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

Cultural Enrichment programs started off in March with eating out at the Kickapoo Tea Room and Boutique in Downs, Illinois. In April following dinner at Tony’s Diner in Bloomington, we will attend a Glenn Miller Orchestra performance at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts. In May the plan is lunch at Medici in Normal and a tour of Ewing Manor where a special tour event of “Hazle’s Closet” will show a unique look into the closet of Hazle Buck Ewing.

The **Family Issues/Community Outreach** chairman, Peg Glaser continues to gather items for Home Sweet Home Mission – toothpaste, men’s regular size deodorant and body lotion from all the units.

Bake sales fuel our many community outreach projects but in November and March we’ve worked with the Fannie May Store in Normal by picking a date and manning a table with HCE information and earning a percentage of the sales when customers present our HCE flyer.

Seven members attended the 2024 IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham. It was a marvelous experience meeting up with our friends around the state. Our own Kathryn McNeely was named HCE member of the year for District 2.

We joined with Livingston County HCE to host **Super Saturday** March 23 at the McLean County Farm Bureau Auditorium to teach members more wonderful programs such as “My Journey through Macular Degeneration,” by our HCE member Karen Crull and “A Taste of Tradition – Heritage Cooking”, by Extension Educator Jenna Smith as well as a program about Personal Safety presented by State Troopers.

Our **106th Annual Meeting and Cultural Enrichment and Fine Arts Show** will be held July 9, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 311 Hershey Road, Normal. McLean HCE is sponsoring the **Young at Heart Day at the McLean County Fair** on Thursday, July 27, 8:30-11:30 a.m. This event features entertainment, refreshments, and vendor displays of organizations serving seniors.

For updated information and more HCE resources, visit our media sites -

Website: www.mcleanhce.org and LIKE our Facebook page at McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.

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



Will

Since our last newsletter, the Will County HCE, has been busy:

In December, we held our **WCHCE Christmas Party** at Al's Steak House in Joliet. Normally, just the Board gets together for a Christmas Party; this year all members were invited, and we had a wonderful time and enjoyed great food and camaraderie.

In December we also sponsored a craft activity at the **Big Brothers, Big Sisters Christmas Party** in Joliet. Children of all ages attended the event. Elaine Czajkoski, F & C Chairperson organized the event in which children could make wreath ornaments, decorating them with assorted designs.

Our members also gathered and signed Christmas cards for the Veterans at the **Manteno Veterans' Home**.

We are happy that we have helped six organizations in 2023, too, including the **St. John's food pantry, Joliet Witches Night Out, Will Co. Diaper Depot Drive, and Will County Advocacy Center**. We hope we can provide even greater help this year to these organizations and others, as well.

In February, we held a Bunco Party. Members met at the Farm Bureau and brought lunches. The WCHCE provided cookies and drinks. We always have an exciting time getting to know others from the various Units in our County and guests, besides having fun!

Andrea Zoelle, our International Chairperson, was our sole representative to the "Diamonds are Forever" Annual Convention in Effingham. She was happy to meet with other members from other counties. She was impressed with Kathy Peterson's display of historical materials from the IAHCE counties. Our WCHCE was founded in 1938 and was the 55th county to join the State organization. Andrea also gathered info about Malaysia, our 2024 Focus Country and the site of the last ACWW convention in 2023.

Our Annual Meeting takes place in May 14th at the WC Farm Bureau. Gail Shaw, President, and Carolyn Yoemans, VP, are planning a wonderful day for our members. Included with the normal business matters, **Nancy Kuhajda**, Master Gardener, will provide a program on "**Getting your Garden ready for Spring.**" We also will have an "**Antique Roadshow**" in which members show and explain items from the past that they have kept through the years. A wonderful catered luncheon will be served.



DISTRICT 3 NEWS

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – Karen Cahill

Wasn't our IAHCE Diamonds are Forever conference to remember?!?! It was great to see so many of you in your beautiful glam outfits and dazzling smiles. I hope you will share memories with others so they will be encouraged to join in the fun for next year's 101st conference. Please remember to share information you received in your packets as well. If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars for our District 3 meetings set for this year. You will receive more information closer to time.



Wednesday, June 26th– Mini-meeting in Decatur

Wednesday, August 7th– District meeting at Southern View Chapel in Springfield

Wednesday, November 6th– Mini-meeting in Decatur

I'm also looking forward to seeing many of you as I visit your county's annual meeting for installation of officers. I will be bringing Hattie Claire Everywhere along to meet you and get her "passport" stamped.

Happy spring! Remember, "Nothing you wear is more important than your smile". ~ Manorama Bansai

Champaign

There were 21 Champaign County HCE members attending the IAHCE 100th Annual Conference held March 12-14, 2024. Champaign County had the most members attending the Conference. All our members enjoyed the share shops and Cultural Arts display. The Road to 100 Museum was very interesting to read about our past. Several members won silent auction items, entertainment was great, and the meals and decorations were outstanding. Special guest, Magdie de Kock, ACWW World President, was so enjoyable to meet and hear from her. A thank you to Melissa Chitwood, conference chair and Champaign County member, for an outstanding and enjoyable conference.

Several CCHCE members met to make 300+ magnets for the IAHCE 100th Annual Conference. We had a glass bead, then using Mod Podge we brush it and added a IAHCE 100th Anniversary logo and then a magnet. All members at the conference received a magnet.

The annual conference theme “Diamonds Are Forever and So Is HCE”, fits our county. Champaign County HCE is in their 106th year and CCHCE has 4 active units over 100 years: 106 year Savoy Unit (first unit organized in Champaign County by Nora Dunlap who was also the first president of Champaign County Home Bureau in 1918) and Dewey/Fiser Unit; 105 years Somer Unit; 103 years Mahomet Unit.

On January 24th, we had “Winter Wonderland”--a gathering to socialize and have crafts. The event took place at the “Country Cottage Farm”, owned by one of our members, Deborah Smith-Shields, Fisher, IL. The food was excellent, the crafts were fun and we finished the day playing card Bingo. There is a consignment shop with lots of home and garden décor items for sale by local artisans that members also enjoyed.

One of our Countywide projects is making special favors and cards for all the holidays for 50 residents at the Illini Heritage Rehab & Health Care in Champaign. Each HCE Unit is assigned a holiday to make something special for all the residents. Another county project is our sewing group that continues to make the needed Weighted Blankets for autistic children in Champaign County.

Following the State Conference, our county held a “Special Tea” on March 17th for a very special guest, Magdie de Kock, ACWW World President from South Africa. A beautiful tea party that was catered by one of our members, Debora Smith-Shield, from the “Country Cottage Farm”. Beautiful and delicious sandwiches, fruit and tiers of pretty cupcakes was served on a table with pretty flowers and teapots. Tea was served from a beautiful collection of teapots at each table. Magdie de Kock spoke and Elizabeth Michael presented her with a weighted blanket with directions to take back to Africa. Magdie was a most gracious guest speaking with everyone at the tea. Magdie was given a tour of the University of Illinois and visited some University farms. Also present was at the tea were IAHCE President, Angela Hicks, who was escorting Magdie around the state; Karen Cahill, District 3 Director; Mary Johnson, IAHCE 2nd VP; Melissa Chitwood, IAHCE Treasurer and 100th Annual Conference Chair; HCE members from Macon County, McLean County, Vermilion County and Ford County.

March was National Craft Month and CCHCE held a craft day at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Members enjoyed making a Patriotic design on canvas, personal initial on a wooden block, seashells on a mirror tile and made personal designed Easter eggs with beautiful ribbons, yarn and decorative trim.

CCHCE is offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship to any Champaign County HCE member or the child, grandchild, great-grandchild, niece or nephew of a member of CCHCE. The Champaign County HCE is also offering the scholarship to any Champaign County 4-H club member in good standing and must have been an active 4-H club member for three or more years.

CCHCE next event is our Annual Spring Craft and Plant Sale on Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Several of our members are vendors plus several outside vendors with handcrafted items for sale and a variety of plants will be for sale. Also we are having a bake sale at the event.

Visit Champaign County HCE website: www.champaigncountyhce.wordpress.com

Carol Froeschl, PR Chairman



Champaign County assisting in magnet making for the 100th Anniversary Conference!

Thank you ladies for the wonderful table favor!



DeWitt County at conference



DeWitt

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

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

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

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

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

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and a wonderful spring!

Linda Riva



Macon

We are back in action after a brief reprieve in January and February! Our weather in Macon County is so unpredictable in those months and we are always concerned about our members traveling for our programs. Some of the units were able to meet during those months, depending on the weather for their meeting dates. Our board was able to continue with their meetings.

Sixteen of our members were able to attend the state conference in Effingham. I heard some wonderful reports from those who attended. They enjoyed the speakers, entertainment, the Share Shops, and, of course, the delicious food! They would encourage more people to attend the three day event.

We were so proud to receive the following awards at the state conference: Karen Halicki, member of the year from District 3; Macon County won the Grand Award for a Special Membership Activity, the Decatur Park District's trash can project; and Macon County won the CVH Award for the highest total hours reported in District 3. Donna Washburn earned a Viewers Choice Award for her winter photography.

Our latest program was called "Looking for the Funny Side of Life." Our members enjoyed the presentation by Cheri Burcham. In these trying times, we appreciated her views about life.

Upcoming programs are: a charcuterie board program, presented by a representative for Honey Bee Boards; historical record of The Little Theatre in Sullivan given by Therese Kincaid; Chef Tucker from the Culinary Department at Richland Community College will explain what is required to earn a Culinary Degree.

Our members meet more frequently now for Pillowcase Sewing and for the hearts for the babies at the neonatal division of St. John's Hospital.

Linda Austin



Piatt

Hello again! Piatt County AHCE has presented its first meetings of 2024! Our Cultural Arts Day Celebration was held in Cisco on January 18, 2024 at the Cisco Center. We all had a great time!

Sonya Anthony, a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist who works for the Extension Service, gave us the *buzz* on our Native Bees in Illinois. Sonya has been raising Native Bees and educating the public about these types of bees since about 2018.

Following Sonya's very informative lesson, our attention turned to the craft/cooking judging. Two of these beautiful craft items won recognition at the 2024 IAHCE State Conference. Kathy Harris won recognition for her Christmas Wall Hanging and Carol Drayton won recognition for her Christmas Quilt.

On February 15, 2024, Piatt County AHCE hosted the Illinois Extension Service's presentation of the **"Navigating Changes as We Age" Webinar**.

We also enjoyed a few of the recipes presented in the February package lesson **"Quick & Easy Dump Meals, Soups, and Desserts!"** Some of our CMV Unit members had a chance to taste the *Creamy Tortellini With Chicken Dump Meal*, the *Asian Vegetables & Ham Dump Meal*, the *Pink Lemonade Cake Dump Recipe*, and the *Home-style Apple Brown Betty Crock Pot Dump Recipe*. Needless to say our lunch on February 15th was delicious.

The Illinois Association for Home and Community Education 100th Annual Conference was held in Effingham, Illinois from March 12-14, 2024. Six local Piatt County AHCE members attended this conference. Between participating in a selection of educational share-shops, informative speaker presentations, delicious meals, and other conference planned activities, we had a great time! Welcome back everyone to IAHCE's 100th Anniversary Year!



Tazewell

On Presidents' Day we held our annual Cabin Fever Day. Vivian Gerrietts started the morning off teaching us how to play boom whackers. After lengthy instructions we were able to play a couple of short tunes! Denise Jatho gave a presentation on the wife of President John Adams, Abigail Adams. The forty two HCE members and guests who were present, enjoyed hearing about the wife of our second president. We then played BINGO and Left, Right, Center. A delicious soup luncheon, provided by the executive board, was enjoyed by all. After lunch those present could play other games, put a jigsaw puzzle together, or learn a craft taught by Kate Schmitgall.

November 1, several of us traveled to Decatur to attend a District 3 Mini Meeting. We received the latest information on the state conference and participated in discussions regarding membership, fundraising, and lessons for 2024.

In March five of us attend the state conference celebrating 100 years of HCE in Illinois. The conference was a great success. We enjoyed the display of HCE Memorabilia, inspirational speakers, informative workshops, and two of our members, Beth Shipley and Darlene Curry were participants in the style show of attire through the years.

We are now making plans for our annual meeting to be held May 6th. At that time we will celebrate our successes this past year and install new officers for the coming year. Thank you so much for the opportunity to report for Tazewell County, but I am happy to tell you that we will be installing Denise Jatho as our new Public Relations director. Denise has some great ideas and we are excited to have her accept this role.

Darlene Curry, Publicity



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR – Donna Richards

Hi, District 4,

WOW! What a great 100th IAHCE celebration. Thank you to Melissa Chitwood, Carol Harms, and the entire IAHCE State Board for a wonderful Conference.

What a great privilege it was to have had the opportunity to meet the current ACWW World President Magdie de Kock from South Africa. She is a delightful, gracious lady.

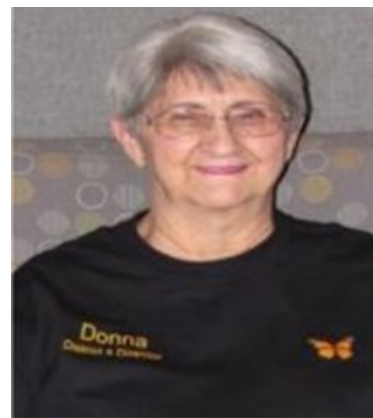
We had a great District 4 meeting during the Conference in March. We had a chance to catch up with each other and to hear about upcoming activities planned in our counties.

Our next District 4 Mini Meeting will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia. Please mark your calendars, include the date in your planning. Cheri Burcham, University of Illinois Liaison will be our speaker. County officers, please watch for the invitation that will be sent in May. We will plan a salad luncheon. After counties have RSVP, I will let those counties know what to bring.

District 4 & 5 August Workshops will be August 8, 2024, at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham.

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

Look forward to my visit to your county this year!

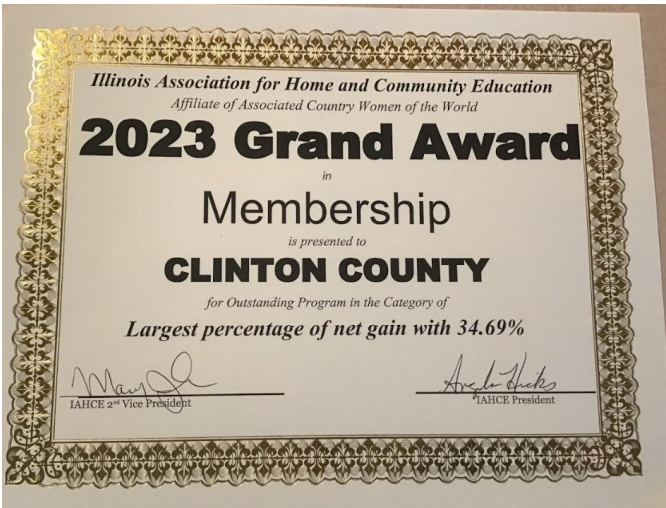


Clinton

Four Clinton County HCE board members attended the 100th state conference in Effingham. We had a great time! We enjoyed the band, the sessions, and the speakers! We loved Sue Busler again! Great job to the co-chairmen. Here are pictures of us at the state conference. We were the Pink Ladies there and we were excited to receive the Grand Award on Net Gain of new members at 34.6%.

We also have been busy doing a few other activities like the community Easter Egg hunt which we sponsor, held a Depression for All Ages program, and planned a bus trip to Casey, IL. We are also planning a “Planting a Flower Container” program right before Mother’s Day.

Karen Voss



Effingham

Eight members of Effingham County HCE attended the IAHCE 100th Anniversary Convention of the Illinois Association of Home and Community Education. The IAHCE Board and Keller Convention Center staff outdid themselves once again! The group of attendees were grateful as they were greeted with glitz, glamour, gorgeous decorations, good food, and great leadership! What genuine, glorious, glowing vibes! We all want to go next year!

Pat Tappendorf, Effingham County HCE International Chair, was honored with an award for the International program on Africa. The presentation was made by IAHCE President, Angela Hicks.

A really interesting Sourdough workshop was presented by Lynn Wolff. Lynn began with basic instructions on ingredients, nutrition, and preparation. Then the fun began as each of those at the workshop collected all the necessary supplies to make a loaf to take home. The result of all the work was a beautiful and tasty loaf of bread. Lynn inspired everyone to go home and try different bread recipes.



Left to right: Pat Tappendorf, Elsie Voelker, Linda White, Mary Beth Hoene, Nancy Hoene, Ann Musser, and Donna Wetherell.



Macoupin

So far this year, all units in the county are working on possible scholarships offered by the State. The Modelite Unit has an encouraging “membership drive” going on and are having fun doing it. Town and Country Unit are doing a white elephant/bake sale each month all year and their first one was very successful. Mt. Olive Unit will continue with their annual “Summer Bags” for the pre-kindergarten kids. Its been a success and the kids look forward to taking this bag home for summer time fun. Macoupin County as a whole unit collected baby items for the Department of Health. It was a very good turn out. Their new project this year is collecting items needed at the two local animal shelters in the county. We will be having our annual district meeting in May and have a great program planned as well as entertainment. Here is a poem to leave you with.

Spring

Spring, Spring is coming soon,
Grass is green and flowers bloom,
Birds returning from the south,
Bees are buzzing all about,
Leaves are budding everywhere,
Spring, spring is finally here!



Madison

In November, we had our annual fundraiser, Christmas in November. It is one of my favorite events we host every year. We started the year off with our third annual craft camp. Our theme was “Bee Inspired, Create a Buzz”. We had eighteen participants. We have slowly increased from two years ago with just nine in attendance. We had our Children’s Make and Take It this past March and a spring craft workshop. In the month of April will be our annual meeting and come May is our bus tour to Arcola/Arthur area, a garden party themed membership tea, and a bee program where people can sample different honeys and make a bee house after a speaker talks about bees. On June 1st we will have our summer craft workshop and in August, our fall workshop. We have an all women’s trivia planned again for July. Last year this was huge money maker for us. We also started a Cork Club this year. Participants can come in to learn all about a variety of wines, sample them, eat yummy foods that pair well with them, and then stick around for a cute cork craft. So far, attendance hasn’t been the best but this month is showing better numbers and I anticipate the amount of people picking up once they see what its all about.



For those of you that went to conference, you may have noticed our county received quite a few awards. Our crafting events have been a major influence over our membership numbers and aiding in the County of the Year award. I would like to especially thank my two cohorts in planning crafting events, Amy Rogier and Carol Meffert. Without them, our membership wouldn’t be as big as it is today.

Marion

The Marion County HCE Board met November 16 and discussed plans for our final Annual Meeting and Member Social to be held Friday, March 22, 2024 at 1:30 pm at the Marion County Extension Office. HCE Members past and present are invited to join us for a time of remembrance and reminiscing about Marion County HCE. Tea and cookies will be served, pictures and other memorabilia will be on display, and we encourage members past and present to bring any pictures, scrapbooks, or other items to share. To commemorate our final year the Board voted to place a full- page ad in the IAHCE 100th Year Annual Conference Program. The Board also voted that after all other final bills are paid that have been placed in the current budget, the remaining balance in the General Fund will be donated to the Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. Official notification of the withdrawal-vote from IAHCE to be held at the Annual Meeting on March 22, 2024 was made to the IAHCE President in January. After the final disbursements from the General Fund and that vote takes place, the bank account will be officially closed by Treasurer, Connie Williams.

The following letter has been submitted by the Marion County HCE Board as an ad to be placed in the Program for the 100th IAHCE Annual Meeting to be held in March at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. It was signed by the following current Board Members: Co-Presidents Dorothy Bruce and Phyllis Henson-Phillips, 2nd Vice President Pat Young, Secretary Carroll Murray, 1st Vice President and Treasurer Connie Williams, and Directors Paula Barksdale and Donna Schwartz.

Marion County Home and Community Education celebrated its Organization Day April 3, 1946. Since that time members have enjoyed opportunities to expand their base of skills, knowledge, and leadership through lessons, share shops, craft days, and other events; many of which were developed by their own membership. They were given the opportunity to travel and grow personal relationships; some of which have flourished over 50 years. They enjoyed serving as volunteers being 4-H Club Leaders, Unit Council Members, Superintendents, and Show Judges. They provided opportunities for 4-H Members to join them for special presentations and yearly awards for 4-H Achievement Night. They provided numerous scholarships first to displaced homemakers and later to students chosen by an application process. They gave donations to local causes near and dear to their hearts such as Ag in the Classroom, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Christmas boxes for Military personnel, the Marion County 4-H Foundation, Royal Family Kid's Camp, the Food Pantry, and more! Many educational programs have been provided for the community as well as entertainment, and social events such as the Family Fall Fest, Salad Luncheons, Bake Sales, and Book Sales. Needed items such as lap quilts, fidget blankets, adult bibs, and books have been provided to care facilities; fidget blankets were provided to schools; and excess craft and needlework supplies have been given to 4-H Clubs. Collections of needed items or finances for Adopt-A-Family gifts, supplies for the local Pregnancy Care Center, bags for foster kids, hats and gloves for children in need were taken. They even provided enough money raised to purchase cabinets and appliances for the original home of the Marion County Extension Office!

At its peak, Marion County Home and Community Education had over 600 members and in 2022 we celebrated our 75th Annual Meeting. Due to dropping membership and other personal factors we have decided that this Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2024 will be our last year of operation. We were privileged to be a part of the Illinois Association of Home and Community Education and we are proud of our lasting legacy in the communities located in Marion County. We wish the remaining Counties in IAHCE well as they continue to strive as we did to make the home "the center of every homemaker's interest, but not the circumference." We still find the Aim of the Homemaker as stated by Miss Juliet Lita Bane in 1918 to be a worthy goal: "To have the home economically sound, mechanically convenient, physically healthful, morally wholesome, mentally stimulating, artistically satisfying, socially responsible, spiritually inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect."

As the IAHCE 100th Conference Logo declares, those "Diamonds Are Forever"!

The 76th and final Annual Meeting for Marion County HCE was held Friday, March 22, at 1:30 pm at the Marion County Extension Office in Salem with 12 current and former members in attendance. Phyllis Henson-Phillips attended the 100th Annual IAHCE Conference and shared items she received there to decorate following the theme “Diamonds Are Forever”. The Marion County HCE Banner, scrapbooks, and prior Program Books and newspaper clippings were displayed. Loose black and white, Polaroid, and color pictures taken through the years of members at various events were scattered down the middle of the tables where attendees sat to reminisce. During final Roll Call they were asked to identify the different Units they’d belonged to, the number of years they were in HCE, and their favorite memories. Bus trips, Craft Days, Book Sales, and past Lessons ranked among favorite memories as well as the relationships built, time spent in each other’s homes, and working on special projects together. Final business of the meeting was discussed and it was announced by Treasurer Connie Williams that the final dispersal from the General Fund to the Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry was \$809. The Official Vote was taken to withdraw from IAHCE and after closing remarks from Co-President Dorothy Bruce tea, cookies, and great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR – Carol Harms

It’s May, and I think I have finally recovered from Conference 2024! What a wonderful three days that was! After reading the conference evaluations, I know that all who attended had a great time. The Share Shops were interesting, the luncheons and banquets were fun, and everyone enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Now the countdown is on for Emily and me as we plan for our 101st Annual Conference 2025.



Things are hopping down in my part of the state. I have been to Johnson, Pulaski-Alexander, Perry, White, Union, and Massac counties in the last six weeks, bringing Hattie Claire Everywhere with me to meet with members and install officers. I love going to your annual meetings and other big events when I can, and it is fun to watch you “in action”: providing good food, reporting on or carrying out various service projects, and supporting each other and your county boards.

I am looking forward to the NVON Conference in Asheville, NC in July. I can’t wait to enjoy the crafts, workshops, and speakers and tour the Biltmore Mansion! You are a member of NVON because you are a member of IAHCE, and I hope you will consider going to the conference this year (go to the NVON website; registration deadline is June 15) OR seriously consider going in July 2025 when IAHCE hosts it in Springfield, IL.

I want to remind you all that we are looking for nominees for some state board positions next year. The positions of 2nd vice president (must have previous board experience), secretary, and cultural enrichment director will be up, and we need people willing to run for those positions. We have a great group of women on the board who are always willing to help each other. Yes, a board position requires some time, HCE experience, and some computer knowledge, but it is so rewarding.

Finally, I want you to know that I am still settling in to my new home. We moved back in August, and one of the hardest things is getting the word out about **my new address: 1123 Flint Street, Red Bud IL**. We are still trying to get it correct on the website; hopefully that will be fixed soon.

Enjoy what’s left of this spring and the beginning of summer. I can’t wait to see you in August at the District 4/5 Workshop in Effingham on Thursday, August 8.

Carol

Hamilton

Hamilton County HCE started out the new year by hosting a Cabin Fever Day on January 15th. The members provided supplies for kids in the community to do different crafts. The event was held on a holiday when the kids would be home from school. HCE members were on hand to assist the kids as they worked on their crafts. Refreshments were served and the kids got to take their crafts home.

In February the HCE sponsored a craft night open to the public to be held at the Hamilton County courthouse. The craft was Easter themed. Supplies were provided. A couple of ladies attended, but fun was enjoyed by all. See the attached picture showing the bunny craft. Pictured is Lucille Auten (left) and Kriste Watt (right).



Throughout the program year HCE members have been working on quilts to give attendees of the local Honor Flight. The Honor Flight transports American Veterans to Washington D.C. to tour different memorials. The goal was to complete 100 quilts. The quilts are made of donated fabric that is patriotic colors. HCE members have gathered to work on the quilts together. Some members have also made quilts in their spare time. The ladies are very close to meeting their goal!

Hamilton County was represented at the IAHCCE Conference by Becky Belcher, Paula Hatfield, Rhonda Milenbine, Jana Rister and Jennifer Rister. Also, they brought a special guest, Jackson, who is Jennifer's 6-month-old son. The ladies attended different Share Shops including Extension and HCE History, Put a Stop to Food Waste and Some Little Known Uses for the Hanky. The ladies enjoyed meeting and visiting with ladies from other counties. Lots of members wanted to see Jackson and share stories about raising their own children and grandchildren. The meals were excellent as always and the live entertainment was a hit! All that attended were so glad to be able to celebrate 100 years of HCE!

Jackson

What a great start we have had for 2024. **IAHCE is 100 years old this year.** Several members from the Jackson County Home and Community Education Association attended the IAHCCE 100-year celebration. Members attending were Cathy Ziegler, Brenda Jones, Kendra Evans, Jean Conrod, Brenda Davis and Jane McLaughlin. What a great celebration it was. The Make It take it and share shops were all enjoyed. We enjoyed hearing from our 100-year board and about things that are coming up in year 101 Conference along with Carol Harms and Emily McDowell co-chairing this wonderful event. We got to see the new IAHCCE 100-year museum with all the Exhibits displayed from all over Illinois by IAHCCE members. We heard about the NVON updates from Jane Chapman and about the ACWW from our representative Magdi DeKock from South Africa. Members from Jackson County HCE attended the welcome party for her at Shawnee Community College. What a wonderful event.

On March 20th our County along with other community members attended an Open House at our newest Jackson County Ambulance Service. Members were treated with a sandwich luncheon and got to see all the newest innovations in emergency ambulance services for our county.



*A diamond is a chunk of coal
that did well under pressure.—*

Henry Kissinger



Massac

For **Community Outreach**, 216 gift bags and valentines were prepared to deliver for residents in the Massac County care facilities. This year we are asking you to donate a gift card or give a monetary donation directly to Ronald McDonald House; if you have given, please turn in the amounts to your council member or report to Judy Ferguson.

Massac County HCE Members Attend Local and State Conferences

Massac County HCE members participated in several exciting and interesting educational experiences in March! Eight members attended the Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union counties (AJMPU) Conference on March 7 at Shawnee College. Several educational workshops were presented, included lessons on the following topics: Boost Your Brain Power; Navigating Change as We Age; Financial Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults; Cooking for One or Two; Happy Hacks for More Positivity and Improved Well Being; Estate Planning 101; and Simplify Your Life by Decluttering. Members who attended also had an opportunity to visit with HCE member from other counties in the Extension AJMPU Unit. The Keynote speaker was, Marsha Griffin, Senior Community Outreach Liaison, Office of Illinois Attorney General. Her presentation included helpful advice about consumer fraud related to communications through our phones and social media accounts. All the lessons presented are available from the University of Illinois Extension Offices in the AJMPU Unit.

“Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE”, 100th year celebration

The **100th Illinois Association of Home and Community Education (IAHCE)** State Conference was held in Effingham, Illinois, March 12-14, 2024. Four Massac County HCE members attended: Dorothy Holt, Judy Parr, Dr. Debra Korte and Norma Korte. Dr. Korte gave greetings from the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Some of the special events included a style show of apparel changes over the last 100 years. One of the major highlights was having the ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock from South Africa, join us during the conference. Magdie installed the 2024-2025 IAHCE Officers and presented a special program during the last session of the conference. Other special guest were: Bonnie Teeples, ACWW USA Area President from Oregon; Karen Bell Fox, CWC USA Secretary from Arkansas; Jo Almond, CWC USA Treasurer from Indiana; and of course our own NVON President from Illinois, Jane Chapman.

Massac County HCE was recognized with several awards during the conference, including: 2nd place **County of the Year** (for counties with 75 members or fewer) and the **Grand Award for Membership Activity**. Massac County HCE also received Education Awards for International, Family and Community Issues, and Public Relations. Thank you to all Massac County HCE members for their active participation in these programs throughout the year. Thanks also to the Massac County and Metropolis communities for supporting HCE events. The awards were determined through an application process. All counties in Illinois were eligible to submit applications. The applications highlighted HCE programs provided in each county and a description of how the programs helped local communities.

Massac County was also honored to host the ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock, and the IAHCE State President, Angela Hicks, to the Steve & Norma Korte family farm on Friday March 15. A reception for the two guests was held also at Shawnee Community College later in the day for HCE members and guests from Johnson, Union, Pulaski/Alexandra, Jackson, Carol Harms & Janel Kassing, to meet Magdie and Angela. Magdie visited several farms during her stay in Illinois and the University of Illinois College of ACES campus.

Be the diamond no one ever wants to lose– Unknown

Massac County Annual meeting “Diamonds Are Forever” and so is HCE

April 27, 2-4 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Cross

A program is being planned about the spiritual meaning of diamonds and how to identify the quality and care of diamonds. Thank you to Town & Country Unit for hosting.

Invite new and former members to this special celebration for the whole county!



Monroe

The Monroe County Association for Home and Community Education conducted a “Spring Break Backpack” project. Food donations and monetary gifts were donated to St. John UCC, Maecystown’s backpack project, providing food for weekends and holiday breaks for students in need from Waterloo, Valmeyer, Prairie Du Rocher, and Red Bud. Children who qualify for free school breakfast and lunch don’t have access to the free meals on weekends and holidays. Pictured from left are HCE Board Members: Ericha Johanning, Lucille Ohms, Marlene Kolbe, Kathi Emery, Laurene Taylor-Cobb, and Janese Sondag.



Monroe County had 10 in attendance at the IAHCE 100 year Anniversary celebration. We were awarded 3 Educational Awards at the Annual Awards Night. Kathi Emery-Health, Food & Nutrition, Janese Sondag-Special Activities for her “Farm to Table” with the Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee & Sharon Scherer—Tea Party for Membership. We are also very honored to have the Great American Family Award that was given to the Don & Karen Schrader Family of Monroe County. It was a great evening honoring this family and them sharing their story.



Monroe County HCE sponsored a community lesson on “The 3 F’s of Hummingbirds”. This was given by Lisa Dean, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and Rebekah Benson, Master Gardener Trainee. There were 32 attendees and 2 possible new HCE members. We all received great information on the incredible hummingbirds and feeders were given as attendance prizes along with special Hummingbird cards made by the presenters.

Perry

Perry County HCE has been very busy as usual! Around 75 members, friends, and guests joined in our Holiday Idea Day in November with at least 300 items being donated to local food pantries. “Christmas Movie Memories” was the theme, and it focused on all the favorite holiday movies with fun skits by our county board. Robin Ridgley, Family Life Educator for U of I Extension, spoke on Holiday Movies and Handling Stress of the Holidays. We also had a magician/comedian that was quite the entertainment!

Members decorated a tree with the theme “Pearls of Wisdom” at the Du Quoin State Fair Festival of Lights to promote Perry County HCE. One HCE unit puts up a holiday lamppost display in Pinckneyville as part of a holiday decorating contest.

55 Perry County HCE members and guests went on a whirlwind bus trip to Branson! Several notable stops included Uranus Fudge, Lambert's Cafe, the Sight and Sound Theater seeing "Queen Esther", Dixie Stampede, breakfast at the Grand Country Buffet, The Doug Gabriel Show (music/variety), and yet another stop for food at Culver's. We were SOOOO full! Along with Perry County HCE members, we had several guests, spouses, a grandson, friends, a district director, and a state board international director along for the fun. By the end of the trip we had at least 3 new HCE members!

Several of the members from the Quilt Block Party unit taught kids to sew and tie quilts during a 6-session afterschool 4-H Quilting Club. There is nothing more rewarding than teaching kids a new skill.

In March, 132 people attended the International Passport Party which focused on Malaysia and our county 4-H picks a state too which was Texas. 4-H clubs and HCE units made table and interactive displays and we ate authentic cuisine prepared by HCE units. County President, Jane Chapman, had a very informative presentation on her recent trip to Malaysia.

We could fill this whole newsletter up with fun pictures of our recent events. If you’d like to see more pictures, go to Facebook and search for [Perry County Illinois HCE](#) and scroll back through the posts and pictures. We are gearing up for our annual meeting in April, a group lesson on mental awareness, and another bus trip in June.



“Holiday Movie Memories” Holiday Idea Day in November. Guests enjoying the magician/ comedian.



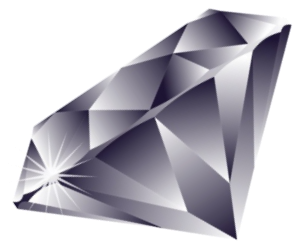
Bus Trip to BRANSON in November 2023.



Decorating a tree at the Du Quoin State Fair Expo Hall for the Festival of Lights to promote HCE.



Teaching 4-Hers how to sew and tie quilts.



Randolph

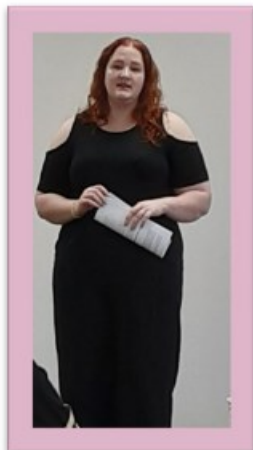
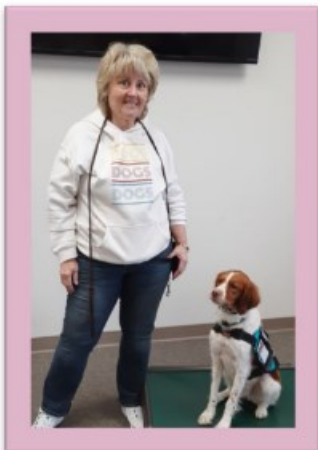
Randolph County was well represented at the 100th Conference. Carol Harms served as co-chairman and is also the director of District 5. Janel Kassing was re-elected as International Chairman. Presenting at the Share Shops were Jane Lucht and Charlene Woods on "Randolph County-Where Illinois Began." Janel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

Cabin Fever is an event sponsored annually by the Randolph County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE). This year it was held March 21 at the Farm Bureau Building in Sparta. The mission statement of the HCE is to enhance the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community. With educational programs being emphasis, the HCE board's goal is to provide something that is both educational and entertaining for its members and also to the public.

This year the HCE is emphasizing mental illness. Jade South, who is employed with ComWell, presented an interesting program on the many services available in Randolph County. During the presentation, there were many questions from the audience. ComWell's main office is at Red Bud, but there are also facilities in Chester and Sparta. It offers program for youth and adults in behavioral health, substance use and developmental training for those who need it. Over 1600 families are reached every year.

Diane Averbeck of Addieville was the second speaker and brought her service dog with her. She spoke about her heart health issues, and it was the reason for having a service dog by her side at all times. The dog is trained to sense when she is having an issue with her heart and alerts her, day or night. A service dog is not a comfort dog which was most commonly known by the public. Both programs were very interesting. To learn more about the HCE and its educational programs, contact the County HCE Board President Charlene Woods.

WINNING QUILT--The Randolph County HCE entered three projects in the Cultural Arts Show for the 100th State Conference held in Effingham March 12-14. The projects were entered by Jeanne Stamm, Janel Kassing and Bernell Wiegard. Bernell won the People's Choice Award and one of five first place ribbons judged by independent judges. Bernell's whole cloth quilt was made for her granddaughter Lauren's wedding gift. It was hand quilted in red thread which matches the backing and binding tone-on-tone red fabric. The top's design is called Garden Bouquet and is 106"×90". It took Bernell three months to finish the quilt. Congratulations Bernell on winning two blue ribbons!



Diamonds have an image of purity and light. They are given as a pledge of love and worn as a symbol of commitment.—Peter Singer

On the difficult days when the world is on your shoulders, remember that diamonds are made under the weight of mountains.

GUEST SPEAKEERS—Diane Averbeck and her service dog and Jade South presented an interesting program at the Cabin Fever event.

White

At our “Diamonds are Forever” conference, we had over 300 women and a few good men, who were not always able but, showed us what it means to be courageous, kindhearted, and with God given wisdom. They let us know that together we are making a difference in our counties and communities. We have been Pearls Of Wisdom in 2023-2024. We made a difference using our talents, skills, knowledge and heart. In White County we helped our homeless, the sick, the lonely, and the hungry. We took 15 cases of heat and eat chili and 17 layer cakes to a homeless shelter where 28 homeless were living. We rang the Salvation Army Bell, donated to White County Relay for life cancer fund, donated to our Veterans Honor Flight, and made a donation to children who needed a bed to sleep on.

Now we are diamonds and we will be stronger and more courageous in 2024-2025. We are eager to get going by using the knowledge we came away from the convention with. We were reminded of the lives that were touched by our H.C.E. members nationwide. I want to take this opportunity to let others know being together with women from other communities, was much needed by all of us. The smiles, the hugs, kind words, and laughs touched more hearts than we know. Some had stories they wanted to talk about and thanked us for listening. Our 100 year convention was a good example of what we all knew, but now over 300 plus knows what courageous, hard working but not always able H.C.E. women made over the last 100 years.

I looked around the room and I saw many of our H.C.E. women who struggled to get from room to room and I know because of them IAHCE has endured 100 Years. So I want to thank the board for helping make a difference, with lots of work, planning, traveling and giving up time with their family. I have heard lots of good positive comments. So Thank You All!

Fran Matheny



Important Dates to Remember

NVON

July 15-18, 2024 in Ashville, North Carolina

IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

CWC

September 24-26, 2024 in Destin, Florida

H.C.E. WEEK

October 13-19, 2024

Support Fund Reports

Perry County is always looking for ways to promote HCE, encourage volunteerism, secure new members and share the message of spreading KINDNESS. We use advertising tools which can be seen by a variety of prospective members. We purchased magnetic chip clips and had them printed with “Be Kind – Perry County HCE” and attached them to IAHCE elevator cards with our county contact information and gave them out at the annual Pinckneyville Mardi Gras Flea Market the last Saturday in October. This is one of the largest events in our community with thousands of people in attendance. A booth is set up to promote HCE and sell raffle tickets on a quilt that serves as a fund raiser for scholarships. Several people inquired about membership because of these efforts. The clips were also given out at our annual Holiday Idea Day and on our Branson bus trip which both also generated new members.



For many years all of **Jefferson County's** printing (membership brochures, booklets, and newsletters) had been printed at our Jefferson County Extension office. However, when they moved to a smaller building and decided to no longer support HCE, we had to find another avenue for our printing needs. We purchased a HP Laserjet Printer and it is housed at the home of our newsletter editor. Our editor doesn't drive so this makes printing the newsletter and other items much easier for her. We are very fortunate that she has room for the printer and is willing to store it for us.

As owners of a printer, we now have the added expense of printing (yearly program booklet given to each member, membership brochures handed out at community events, monthly newsletter with lessons, Annual Meeting booklet). We must now purchase paper, toner, an imaging drum and labels for the newsletters.

In addition to normal newsletter information, we provide our membership with lessons in each edition and many contain word search puzzles for entertainment. We share information regarding any upcoming events, lessons, and meetings. We share information on donations we are making in our community, such as paper products for a local homeless shelter, lunch items for the Youth Build program, small blankets and hats for the Holy Sews program, canned goods for a local food pantry and quilts for The Amy Center for Abused Children.

We also printed a new membership brochure to be handed out to prospective members at community events and a smaller membership brochure which was handed out to prospective members who bought flowers at our annual flower sale. The new membership brochure was handed out at the annual Herb and Garden Show and at our annual yard sale. We are looking for other places to leave our membership brochure, such as beauty shops and the local library.

Our need to purchase toner, imaging drums, paper and mailing labels will be ongoing. Jefferson County was very honored to be awarded the Support Fund grant for this project.

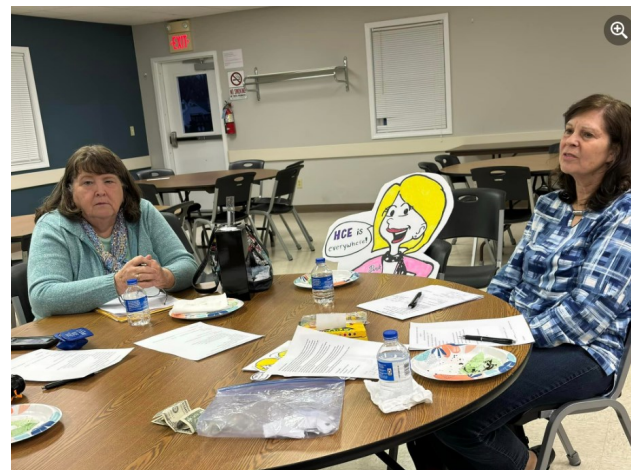
The IAHCCE state board traveled in August of 2023. Our three workshops reached out to 300 plus members/ officers. Each location was thrilled with our TATER Family program and the potato bar for lunch. As officers and educators, we were able to share position information, answer questions, and provide mental health lessons. Some one on one time was even allowed! The conference theme was revealed, “Diamonds are forever and so is IAHCCE”. It was a great time with a lot of work done by District Directors at each location. Hope to see you in August 2024 at **District Workshops!**

Kathy Peterson, First Vice President

Our 2023 **Annual Conference**, “Pearls of Wisdom Strung Together for 99 Years”, was a wonderful time. Many attendees were able to participate in different share shops including yoga, an air fryer lesson, education on gluten intolerance and food allergies, as well as an essential oil class. Our guest speakers included a Methodist pastor and a fashion influencer. Our entertainment included a barber shop quartet. This was a great conference leading to the huge 100 year celebration and I thank the Support Fund for assisting with conference expenses!

Eleanor Gregory, Conference Chair

Hattie Claire Everywhere Sightings



Hattie Claire Everywhere

Meet Hattie Claire Everywhere (H.C.E.)! Hattie is like a Flat Stanley (if you don't know who that is, look for the children's book). You can dress her up, change her appearance, and color her however you would like. Cut her out and then take her with you to all your board meetings and HCE functions throughout the year. Show off your photos on our Facebook page or email them or mail them to me. This is a contest so awards will be given out at next year's conference!

If you prefer a non-Flat Stanley method of Hattie Claire, you are welcome to make her a blow up on poster board like we have done or you can choose an alternative way of making your very own Hattie Claire. I have made five fabric dolls that I have dressed up and attached hair to. Hattie Claire is your own interpretation of an HCE lady. Maybe you will make her look like you?

President, Angela Hicks, will be taking our life size Hattie Claire to different statewide functions when she travels such as June Board Meetings, the NVON conference, ACWW conference, and August District Workshops. If she comes to your county, she may even bring Hattie Claire with her. What fun would it be for your members to take photos with our life size Hattie Claire?

We hope you will participate in this special project and can't wait to see what you create and where you take your Hattie Claire pictures!

Emily McDowell

IAHCE Public Relations Director

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Magdie de Kock, ACWW World President Tours Illinois

Magdie de Kock was invited to attend the IAHCE 100th Annual Conference “Diamonds Are Forever and So Is IAHCE.” In addition, we invited Magdie to extend her stay in Illinois so that she could visit rural Illinois. Since 1929, ACWW has advocated for women in rural and remote communities to be recognized for their global importance.



We headed to the southern tip of Illinois to begin our tour on Friday, March 15 in Massac County. We arrived at the Steve and Norma Korte Family Farm where we toured the machine shed, fields that will soon be planted with white corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and straw. We arrived as white corn was being loaded into trucks to be offloaded onto barges which then would be transported down river to its destination. The Korte Family Farm is a recipient of the IAHCE “Great American Family”

Award and also a Centennial Farm Family. That evening a reception was held at



Shawnee Community College with members from Massac County HCE, Union County HCE, Johnson County HCE, Williamson County HCE, Pulaski-Alexander County HCE, and Jackson County HCE. Magdie



and I were also given a tour by County Extension Director, Jody Johnson. We visited the town of Cairo where the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers meet. We also saw a beautiful community garden where the children of a local school plant vegetables and fruits. We saw so many places on the driving tour and it culminated with a stop in Metropolis to have our photo taken with Superman!



On Saturday, March 16, we travelled northwest to Fulton County to visit the Eathington Family Angus Farm. We toured the barns and checked out the show cattle. Magdie had a lively discussion with Kevin Eathington (Cathy Eathington’s son) about raising cattle. Kyle, Cathy’s grandson, also showed us a short horn heifer. We also toured Barry Fisher’s Sheep Farm where we learned the sheep have different distinctive voices! The Fisher’s also participate in Ag in the Classroom by taking lambs to see third graders in Chicago schools.

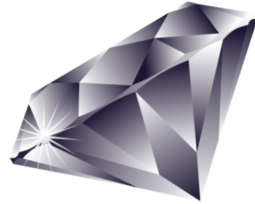


Champaign County HCE held a tea in honor of Magdie on Sunday, March 17. Members from Macon County HCE, Sangamon County HCE, and Ford County HCE attended. Champaign County HCE shared their information about the weighted quilts they make for children who are autistic. They also shared the pattern with Magdie and gave her a sample quilt.





Dr. Debra Korte (Steve and Norma Korte's daughter) was our University of Illinois College of ACES tour guide on a cold and windy Monday, March 18. We toured the ACES library, Crop Sciences greenhouses, horticulture conservatory, Red Oak Rain Garden, Bevier Hall, Child Development Lab, and had lunch at the student-operated Bevier Café.



Tuesday, March 19 found us in Northeastern Illinois in Lake County where Lake County HCE members and Magdie toured the College of Lake County Horticulture building, greenhouse, arboretum, and 1-acre student operated farm. The farm is a perfect example of urban farm to table skills. The produce will be used in the student-operated restaurant. After lunch at a farmer owned steakhouse we toured Golden Oaks Dairy Farm and Midwest Organics

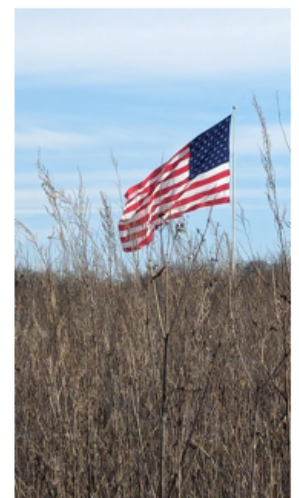


Recycling. We learned about recycling yard waste, restaurant waste, and reusing in the landscape. We learned about automated milking, rode on a wagon through the barns viewing the milking cows, and saw where the calves were housed.



When Magdie de Kock's Tour of Rural Illinois came to an end, she travelled a total of 1100 miles round trip. She saw the prairies, the fields being readied for spring planting, the hills in southern Illinois and hills of west central Illinois very near the Mississippi, and saw the urban counties surrounding Chicago. She wondered about the lack of fences and security, as this is what she is accustomed to in South Africa. Magdie appreciated the work of our farmers. She was humbled by the friendly and generous people of Illinois! I believe she left the USA with a better appreciation of IAHCE. I thank everyone who opened your homes and farms to us. I thank everyone who had the opportunity to meet Magdie de Kock, the ACWW World President from South Africa. You were excellent ambassadors of HCE and Illinois!

And so we say goodbye for now!





Highlights



Registration



County of the Year JoDavievs



County of the Year Madison



Road to 100 Museum



Conference Co-Chairs



Decades Style Show



Voting Delegates



Quilt Winner



Pot of Gold



Highlights cont.



ACWW World President



ACWW USA Area President



CWC Secretary



NVON President



Cultural Enrichment



Sing-a-long with IAHCCE



New Member??



They are next ->



2025 Conference Co-Chairs



Outgoing Officer Becky T

For more photos please go to the IAHCCE Website iahce.org/archives



Retiring IAHCCE Photographer, Clarence

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